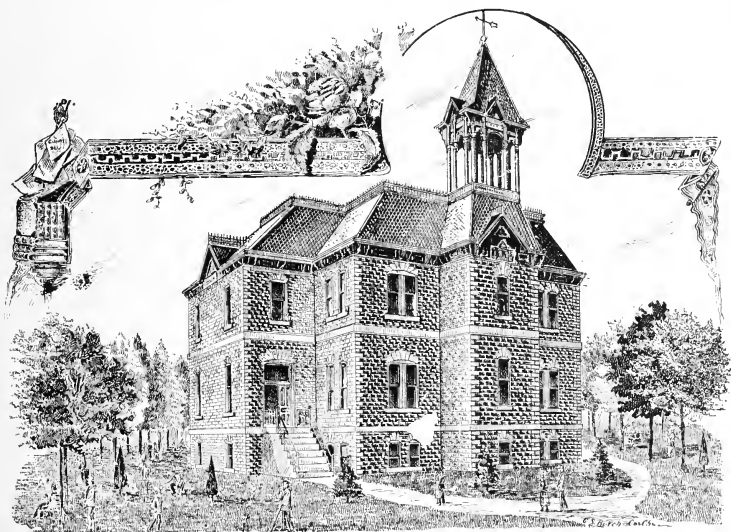


HAND-BOOK OF **NESS COUNTY,** KANSAS.



PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE, NESS CITY.

BY THE EDITOR OF "THE DAIRY WORLD," CHICAGO.

CHICAGO:
C. S. BURCH PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1887.

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NESS COUNTY, KANSAS.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

On the Beautiful Walnut Valley in Western Central Kansas.

Graphic and Glowing Sketches of the Climate, Soils, Topography, Location and Agricultural Resources of

NESS COUNTY.

A Faithful and Entertaining Review of the Educational, Social, Commercial, Industrial, and Professional Order, Railways, Material Progress and Prospects of

THE BANNER COUNTY

Of Western Kansas, Whose Matchless Valleys, Grand Billowy Prairies, Bounteous Grain Fields, Thrifty Herds and Flocks, and Charming Landscape are a Surprise to Every Visitor.

NESS CITY,

The Banner Town of the Banner County—A Bright Bustling, Booming, Busy and Booming Young City, Full of Brave, Strong Men of Boundless Enterprise.

Typical Kansas Town-Builders,

In the Midst of the Schools, Churches, Newspapers, Banks Parks, Handsome New Blocks and Hotels and Pretty Homes They Have Created

A String of Bright Towns,

BABINE, HAROLD, NONCHALANTA, OGDENBURG, RIVERSIDE, ETC.,—NOTES OF THEIR RAPID PROGRESS, ADVANTAGES AND PROSPECTS.

A FAIR AND FRUITFUL LAND UNDER GENIAL OUTDOOR SKIES.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Old Mr. Morse, the Geographer, was telling the American school boy the story of the "Great American Desert." A dozen years later Col. Tom. Benton supplemented the story of the desert with a memorable speech in the American Senate, in which he characterized the whole country between the Missouri River and the Mountains as a "barren waste, incapable of successful agriculture and practically uninhabitable to civilized men." The brave and heroic Capt. Pike had already traversed this great region to the base of the Snowy Range, in search of the sources of the Red River. In 1805 Col. Henry Dodge led a troop of soldiers from Ft. Leavenworth up the Republican Valley to the mountains, and returning by the Arkansas Valley, established old Ft. Dodge in the very heart of "the desert," but failed to tell the world that his march covered the finest grazing fields of the continent. Later on Col. Bent built Bent's Fort at the junction of the Arkansas and Las Animas, in eastern Colorado, married a Cheyenne squaw,

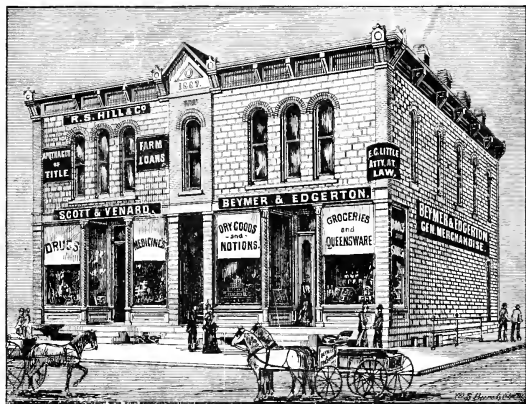
grew rich in trade, and forgot to tell the world that the geographer's story and the Senator's speech were as baseless as the "fabric of a dream." Later still, Kit Carson and Charles Boggs—the latter the son of the Governor of Missouri—found their way up the Arkansas to Bent's Fort, took Mexican women for wives and contented themselves with rearing families and herds and exploring the mountains. Their wild life had its charms, and they, too, forgot to tell the world of THE BEAUTIFUL LAND that lay between their Las Animas cabins and civilization. Col. Fremont, the heroic pathfinder, led his brave band of explorers across these magnificent savannas, in 1842, and

BROKE THE SPELL

of the mythical desert with a revelation of far-

ing "the problem of life" by honest labor for honorable subsistence. Within this quarter century they have built 500 prosperous cities and villages; founded half a hundred universities, colleges and academies; built 7,500 free public schools and have 8,000 miles of railway traversing the most beautiful and prosperous State in the Union.

Only recently, Kansas led the wheat-growing States of the Union with a product of 48,000,000 bushels. In the same year it took the second place among the great corn-producing States with a product of 192,000,000 bushels. Its annual barley crop ranges from 300,000 to 500,000 bushels, and its oat crop has exceeded 27,000,000 bushels in a single season, while its rye crop ranges from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 bushels. Kan-



SMITH & BRINTON'S BLOCK, NESS CITY.

reaching valleys and mountain-girl parks, richer than the African Nile and fairer than the fabled Eden. Fifty years bring marvelous change. The Senator's speech and Geographer's story are but the memories of an illusion. In their stead is

A REVELATION

of matchless material beauty and marvelous human progress. The desert is transformed into a garden. Its wondrously rich valleys reach from the Missouri River to the mountains, and are yielding grains to fill the storehouses of the world. Its hills and plains are grazing the herds to feed the million. In

KANSAS

alone—the great central State, but a quarter century old—a million and a half of people are solv-

ing the problem of life by honest labor for honorable subsistence. Within this quarter century they have built 500 prosperous cities and villages; founded half a hundred universities, colleges and academies; built 7,500 free public schools and have 8,000 miles of railway traversing the most beautiful and prosperous State in the Union. Only recently, Kansas led the wheat-growing States of the Union with a product of 48,000,000 bushels. In the same year it took the second place among the great corn-producing States with a product of 192,000,000 bushels. Its annual barley crop ranges from 300,000 to 500,000 bushels, and its oat crop has exceeded 27,000,000 bushels in a single season, while its rye crop ranges from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 bushels. Kan-

2,700 churches, and her total valuation exceeds \$330,000,000. Full 1,000 people are daily settling within her ample borders, and before the close of 1889, her population will number 2,000,000. Kansas is

THE LAND OF DESTINY.

Her growth in population and material, social, intellectual and moral wealth is without precedent in the history of human progress. She is young in years, but rich in the most eventful, exciting and entertaining history that has fallen to the lot of any of the younger States of the Union. She has the fairest domain, the grandest resources, the greatest possibilities, and brightest prospects of any of the great agricultural States and offers more to the intelligent master of husbandry, mechanics and commerce, than any other country of equal extent on the green earth. No portion of her magnificent domain of 81,000 square miles (a territory one third larger than England) is attracting more attention among settlers and investors, and none promises ampler recompense for well directed labor and investment than the region known as

WESTERN CENTRAL KANSAS.

embracing the counties of Pawnee, Rush, Hodgeman, Lane, Scott, Garfield, Ellis, Trego, Gove and Ness, covering an area of over 5,000 square miles, drained by the Walnut, Smoky Hill, and Pawnee rivers—a country whose depth and wealth of soil, agricultural possibilities and beauties of landscape are unsurpassed by any region of equal extent between Boston Harbor and the Golden Gate. In the very heart of this splendid country and in the garden of the matchless Walnut Valley, is

NESS COUNTY,

the subject of this Hand-Book; a county that for native scenic charms, productiveness of soil and agricultural promise, has no superior in the Sunflower State. This beautiful county has an

AREA

of 1,080 square miles, a territory nearly equal in extent to the State of Rhode Island and five times its equal in agricultural capacity. This noble county has something to be proud of besides a royal domain and inexhaustible soils. It has

A FORTUNATE LOCATION

in the geographical centre of Western Kansas, the Great Central State of the Union, 320 miles west of Kansas City, 100 miles east of Colorado, eighty miles north of the Indian Territory, and eighty miles south of Nebraska, and is bounded on the north by Gove and Trego Counties; on the west by Lane County; on the south by Hodgeman County and on the east by Rush and Pawnee Counties. It lies too

IN THE PATH OF TRANS-CONTINENTAL TRAVEL, midway between the two oceans, midway between Kansas City and Denver, the coming great cities of the middle Union, and within

THE PRODUCTIVE MIDDLE BELT

of the continent; a strip of country less than four hundred and fifty miles wide, lying between the latitudes of Minneapolis and Norfolk, reaching from ocean to ocean, and within which are located all the great commercial, financial and railway centres, 90 per cent of the manufacturing industries, the strongest agriculture, the heavy fruit and dairy interest, the densest, strongest, most cosmopolitan and progressive population,

all the great universities and the most advanced school systems of the country. It lies too, in the latitude of San Francisco and Richmond, 2,400 feet above the tides, and what is of primary importance to the immigrant has the genial and grateful

CLIMATIC INFLUENCE

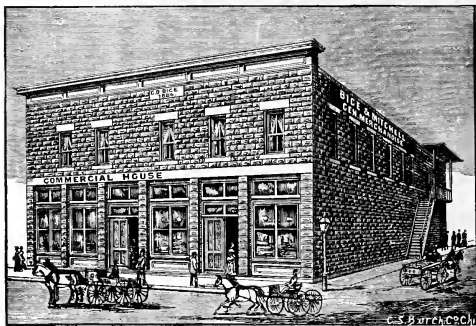
that has given enviable fame to the mild and equable temperature of Southern Kentucky and

THE HIGHEST AVERAGE HEALTH

known to any good agricultural country on the continent. As I had occasion recently to write of another Kansas county: "This charming southern country is

A DELIGHTFUL REVELATION

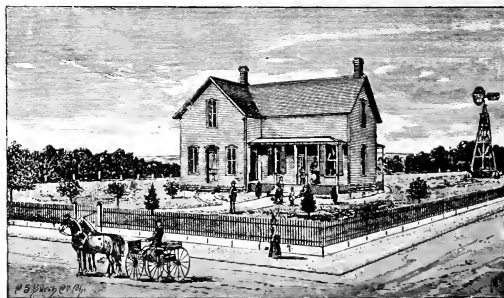
to the visitor from the higher latitudes. All the springs of life yield quickly to the reproductive



BICE & MITCHELL'S STORE AND COMMERCIAL HOUSE, BAZINE.

Southern Virginia. The typical winter is mild, dry and open, with light and transient snows, and is rarely severe enough to interfere with out-of-door work or the grazing of herds. The long, friendly and growing summers, with bright, breezy days and deliciously cool restful refresh-

influence of spring-time. I well remember the balmy, semi-tropical south winds, soft, blue haze, green grasses and the humming of bees and bird-songs along the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers in the early spring of 1877, while my Northern and Eastern friends were snow and ice-bound, and



HOME OF DR. W. W. FICHENOR, BAZINE.

ing nights; the golden, glorious autumn season; a mean temperature of fifty-eight degrees; the absence of swamps, marshes, lagoons and stagnant water, general freedom from malaria, and the prevailing Southwest winds from the elevated plains and mountains, give to this beautiful region, not alone a genial and enjoyable climate, but

the very memory of that glorious spring-time is a benediction."

The visitor may daily exchange courtesies with men and women from the older lands, who have found in this life-giving, health-inspiring atmosphere, decided relief from incipient consumption, asthma, bronchial affections and kindred ills, long-suffering subjects of pain and disease, to whom

the new life in this glorious and kindly new land, has become a lasting joy. Other, and scarcely less potent, factors in the general health of the country, are found in the admirable water supply and the

SUPERB NATURAL DRAINAGE,

the latter resulting from the generally undulating character of the country, its frequent "draws," ravines and rapid, deep-set streams, and the porous structure of the sub-soils, all of which quickly absorb the surplus rains and leave the fields and gardens available to the cultivator hard after the heaviest rainfall. I cannot better describe the face of the country than by quoting from my late Hand-Book of Cowley County:

"THE LANDSCAPE

is an inspiration. From end to end, Ness County is a region of marvelous, bewildering scenic

glens, gulches and miniature canyons; rugged and picturesque bluffs; ranges of low hills and

THE TABLE MOUNDS

that mark the primitive land-levels, and have the semblance of vast, well-defined, artificial earthworks; the ranges of low hills graduating in graceful slopes, that drift imperceptibly into the lower valleys; these, and many a minor feature that must be nameless here, lend an inexpressible charm to a landscape in which is no sense of weariness, bleakness or monotony, nothing abstract or startling, but everywhere unity and harmony and beauty in endless variety. The table mound (*Mesa*) is

THE CROWNING GLORY

of these landscapes, and standing out against the blue horizon, in the mellow haze of this southern atmosphere, seems a beautiful realm above

all possessions of the soul."

THE WATER SUPPLY

of Ness County is alike ample and admirable. The Walnut River drains the county centrally from west to east, with a good volume of clear cold spring water, and has half a dozen small tributaries. The Pawnee River, with equal volume, flows along, and partially within the southern border of the county, and with Hackberry and Plum creeks and a dozen small spring brooks, gives that division of the county an un-failing supply of pure living water. Other portions of the county are watered by Forester, Spring, Sand and Wild Horse Creeks and small brooks. All of these streams are

FED BY SPRINGS

of clear, cold hard and soft water—never-failing springs that get their impulse from hidden water



THE NEW CALHOUN HOUSE, NESS CITY.

beauty, whose impress can never be effaced from the memory of the visitor. The stranger is moved with a sense of its matchless loveliness the moment he crosses the border, and the spell is never broken until he passes into the region of the commonplace beyond. If the county be wanting in the rugged grandeur of the mountains, it is immeasurably rich in the more

PEACEFUL PASTORAL CHARMS

that no pen or pencil can give adequate portraiture. Leagues on leagues of graceful billowy prairie, reaching away like the dead swells of a great sea; broad, peaceful, low-lying valleys, coursed by clear, winding timber-fringed streams, green glades and intervals, lying in the shadows of century elms, cottonwoods and sycamores, and flanked on either hand by far-reaching meadows and cornfields; here and there a bold, rugged, rocky headland, whose terraced slopes and curves describe numberless lines of grace and beauty, wrought by the ancient water-currents; wild

and apart from the sordid lower world of sinful men. Standing upon the outer rim of these grand elevations, the vision takes wonderful range, and the soul is moved with an unspeakable sense of the infinite. The herd-men will tell you that they are only fit for "stock range," and the grain-grower deprecates their presence as a blemish upon a fertile and fruitful land; but to the lover of the beautiful they stand out against the sky,

A PERPETUAL INSPIRATION.

Below them, along the slopes and valleys, life may be never so prosaic in bread-getting and home-building, but these blue mounds are the monuments that mark the way of the soul into the higher ideal land. They

CALL A HALT

in the march of avarice, and give impulse to every noble and refined sense. If they have little commercial value, they are yet priceless in esthetic worth, and may be numbered among the inalien-

courses whose sources have been traced westward to the foot-hills. There are

HUNDREDS OF SPRINGS

in the county, mostly along and near to the streams, and many of them springs of fine volume. Good living well water is abundant at twelve to seventy feet depth, the average depth being about thirty-five feet.

THE YEARLY RAINFALL

which has much to do with the general water supply, ranges from fifteen to thirty inches; the average for the past five years registering something over twenty-five inches, a volume of moisture far in excess of the minimum needs of agriculture. The bulk of this rainfall, which is but little below the average in eastern Kansas and western Missouri, is distributed over the growing months of April, May, June, July and August when most needed, and performs its office as well as in any country on the green earth.

IT IS NOT WANT OF RAIN

that has troubled the Western Kansas farmer, half so much as the failure to utilize what has fallen. Up to a recent date the cattle men overran the whole country with their herds, little plowing was done, and the upland prairies with their smooth hard buffalo grass turf shed the rain into the water courses and valleys like a surface of glass. Now

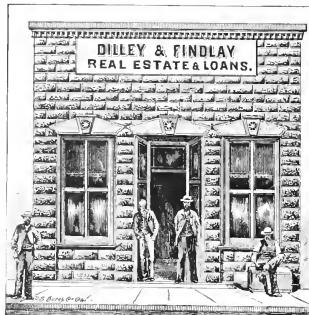
THE RAINS ARE ABSORBED

by numberless cultivated fields, which are every year growing wider. Every season the moisture gets down deeper into the sub-soils, creating a good *reservoir* for dry times and the result is everywhere seen in heavier crops, increasing atmospheric humidity, a more equable rain-fall, the appearance of new springs, the steady advance of "blue stem," and other coarse grasses, and a rapid improvement in agricultural conditions, and when one-half of Ness County is under tribute to the plow, there will be no more prosperous farm region under the sun. None of the older States can raise crops with so little rain or get on so well as this country under excessive rainfall.

THE TIMBER SUPPLY

is limited to a few thousand acres of native cottonwood, ash, elm, hackberry, box elder, sycamore, and walnut forest, along the Walnut, Pawnee, Hackberry, and South Fork, but these limited native groves are fast being supplemented by

give to the farms, they make admirable shelter for the homes and herds of their owners; modify the harsher influences of climate; are conservators and promoters of moisture; very soon grow into

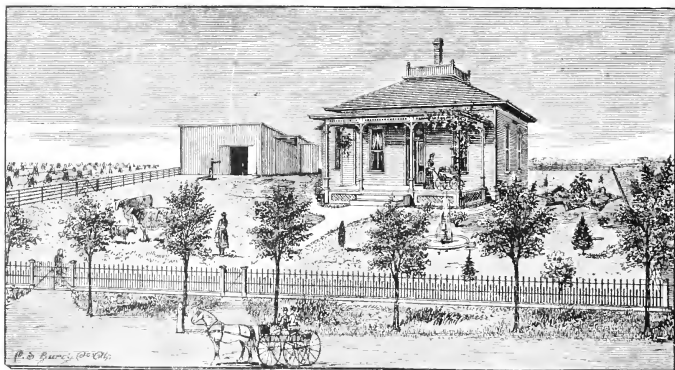


DILLEY & FINDLAY'S REAL ESTATE OFFICE, HAROLD.

fuel and timber, and are of priceless esthetic value to the country.

HUNDREDS OF GROVES,

ranging from half an acre to ten and twenty acres in extent, are already planted in the country,



SUNNYSIDE—THE SUBURBAN HOME AND FARM OF R. K. FEYMER, NESS CITY.

DOMESTIC GROVES

of ash, maple, cottonwood, walnut, catalpa, box elder, honey locust and kindred woods, that make a wonderful growth in these rich alluvial soils, and will soon transform the whole country from an open plain into

A GREAT PARK,

such as one may see in Eastern Kansas and Nebraska, where from 2,000 to 5,000 carefully domestic groves lend indescribable grace to the landscape of each county. Beyond the largely increased commercial value which these beautiful groves

and the work of tree-planting is so popular and general that Ness promises soon to become one of the most attractive counties in the State. In

SAPPE BUILDING STONES,

this fortunate county ranks all other counties in Kansas. The hard blue and gray lime-stones in the eastern part of the county, are very fine, both for lime and building, but the soft white and cream colored magnesian limestones about Ness City, Bazine, Harold, and other localities, are

ALMOST AS FINE AS MARBLE.

They are cleanly stratified, from four to eighteen

inches in thickness, and are easily quarried in ordinary blocks, broad slabs for walks, steps, platforms and floors, into smooth fence posts, gate and door posts, heavy dimension stones, and every form of building, bridging and fencing material. They yield readily to the saw, plane, chisel and auger, and are quickly converted into finely dressed sills, caps, capitals, water tables, cornice work, lintels, arches, fountains, columns, key-stones, small bricks, blocks, and various forms of ornament for building, garden and lawn uses, and hundreds of large and small buildings in the county, as the accompanying illustrations show, are monuments alike to their elegance and utility. Indications of the existence of

BITUMINOUS COALS

have been found in several wells and other excavations in and around Ness City; but beyond the discovery of pockets and superficial veins of coal no effort has been made for the development of this valuable commodity.

FIRE AND POTTERS' CLAYS,

between which and bituminous coals there is usually a close alliance, are known to exist here, both in quality and quantity, to give their presence great significance to the future of the country, and there is little doubt that paying veins of coal will yet be found along the breaks and bluffs of the Walnut and Hackberry.

GYPSUM,

(sulphate of lime) is also found in good measure

at several points in the county, and will some day prove of decided value to local husbandry. Among the valuable natural resources of this class,

NATURAL LIME,

a well mixed and easily handled deposit of decomposed gypsum, lime carbonate, sandstone, etc., etc., which, mixed with river sand and water, makes an excellent white cement, or plaster, that has served to beautify and make comfortable hundreds of modest, and not a few quite elegant homes, is found in many portions of the county.

No county in Kansas, nor indeed anywhere in the West, can boast of finer

SOILS

than Ness County, either in respect to uniformity or quality. In marked contrast with most other countries, the upland and lowland soils of Ness County are equally productive, the high prairies producing quite as generously as the lower valleys.

THE BOTTOMS AND VALLEYS,

which cover about eighteen per cent. of the entire county, range from one to three miles in width, and are among the most beautiful and fertile lowlands in the West. Like the famous valleys of the older states, they are composed of a rich black alluvial from eight to fifteen feet in depth, the deposit of ages, and are every whit as productive as the Wabash, Sciota, Genesee and Mohawk valleys of world-wide fame.

THE HIGH PRAIRIES

which cover fully seventy-five per cent. of the county are mainly black loams and moulds, rich in humus, from fifteen to forty inches deep, dry, warm and friable, and similar in appearance and character to the prairie soils of Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. They are easily handled, and produce a rank, luxuriant growth of all the grains, vegetables and plants of the middle latitudes. About seven per cent. of the county is made up of bluffs, low hills and the breaks along the streams. Even these limited areas, which include the water courses, are covered with rich grazing herbage, and though too broken for profitable cultivation afford fine pasturage, so that it may be safely said that there is

NOT AN ACRE OF WASTE LAND

in all this beautiful model county of 691,200 acres. One of the grandest features of this region is the depth, wealth, and remarkable general character of

THE SUB-SOILS

which underlie the entire upland prairies, save only in the small bluff districts. This substructure is nearly identical with the famous *loess* or bluff deposits of the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys and the world-famous *loess* formation of the Rhine and Nile, which long centuries of cultivation have shown to be of

IMPERISHABLE FERTILITY.

This rich, gray deposit, which in Ness County is easily traced in the washouts, along the gulches and streams, in railway and street excavations, and in cellars, cisterns and wells, is made up of

SILICEOUS CLAYS AND MARLS,

which are largely composed of silica, alumina, lime carbonate, lime phosphate and organic matter—the basis and chief constituent being silica, which gives it warmth and quickness—and generally runs down to the bed rock or water levels. It rapidly disintegrates to the mellowness of an ash heap, on exposure to frost and air, absorbs water like a great sponge and retains moisture with wonderful tenacity, giving it slowly back to vegetation and the atmosphere in seasons of drouth, by capillary attraction. These peculiarly rich and imperishable subsoils will prove

A MINE OF PRODUCTIVE WEALTH

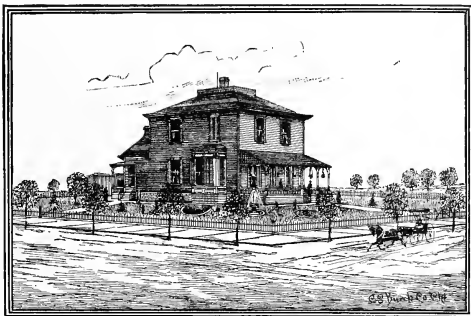
to the deep, thorough cultivators of the future, long after the black surface soils have been carried down the streams into the lower valleys, for

long ages of exhausting cultivation in the older world have shown them to be the finest basis for grains, fruits and grasses, known to the world of husbandry. They have elicited little interest here, because agriculture is in its infancy, and because the high fertility of the surface soils has rendered the average farmer insensible even to the value of barn-yard manures, much more the incalculable

in perfection, every product of the farm that flourishes between the northern limit of the cotton fields and the Northern Red River."

CORN IS KING

of grains here, as bluegrass is king of herbage in Kentucky and Missouri. Only 10,000 acres of corn was grown last year, a large per cent. of which was "sod corn," planted in the newly bro-



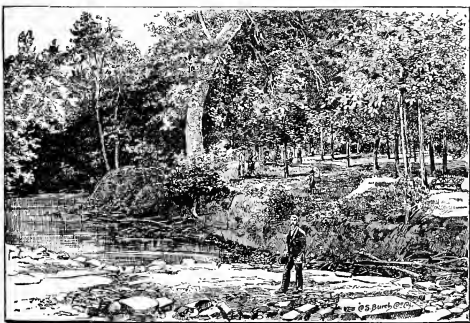
RESIDENCE OF MAYOR W. D. MINER, NESS COUNTY.

treasures of the soils that lie beyond the depth of his superficial plow. The deep, thorough cultivators of the future in Ness County will be

PROUD OF THEIR FORTUNE.

in the possession of practically imperishable lands, whose value as conservators of moisture and whose productive wealth can only be measured by the master farmers of a later day. With

ken sod, but the product of the county reaches the handsome sum of 271,000 bushels, or two-thirds as much as was grown by the State of Rhode Island, and more than the combined corn crops of Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and Montana. While Ness County agriculture is far too new for fair tests of the productive power of the soils, many of the better farmers have grown fifty



VIEW AT THE FORD IN FARNSWORTH'S PARK, BAZINE.

deep, systematic, rotative cultivation, there is no region in the West better suited to

MIXED FARMING

than Ness County. They can grow anything here that is produced in the middle latitudes, and it was not a vain boast of a valued farmer friend of the writer that in Ness County, "We can raise

sixty and seventy bushels of corn to the acre, not a few of them reporting a much higher yield. At the present rate of growth in local production, the cornfields of the county will cover 50,000 acres within five years, and the yearly crop of this grain will run from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 bushels. Only 3,611 acres of

WINTER WHEAT

were reported last year and the product was 41,000 bushels, or more by 20 per cent. than the total wheat crop of Massachusetts, Connecticut or Wyoming. With good seasons and culture, winter wheat gives from twenty to forty bushels to the acre, and, as in all limestone regions, the quality is excellent. Spring wheat is little grown, but as with corn growing, the capabilities of Ness County for wheat growing can only be measured by millions of bushels.

RYE

is a good crop, rarely fails, and should be extensively grown both for grain and winter grazing. Only 2,000 acres with a product of 30,000 bushels were reported last year, but the yield often runs from twenty to thirty bushels per acre.

OATS

are an excellent crop, the yield running all the way from twenty to seventy bushels to the acre, according to soils, culture and season. One of the finest crops grown here is

BROOM-CORN

which never fails of a good growth, either on sod or old lands, and yields the highest quality of brush in the American market. The crop is very profitable and will soon enough become one of the leading staples. Only 235,000 pounds of brush was grown last year, but as in the counties further east, the yearly crop will soon run into millions of pounds.

THE COMING CROP

of Ness County and all Western Kansas, where it reaches perfection and is universally grown for stock feed and table syrups. I venture the prediction that the 4,475 acres raised last year, in this county, mainly for winter feed, will be increased to 10,000 next year, and that before the crop matures, one or more

SUGAR MILLS

founded and built by enterprising citizens of the

THE GARDEN LAND.

Melons, onions, beets, tomatoes, cabbage, beans and every product of the garden, in medium latitudes, reach perfection here with half the care required in the older states. Indeed Ness County, only last year, in competition with nearly a score of western Kansas counties,

CARRIED OFF FIRST HONORS

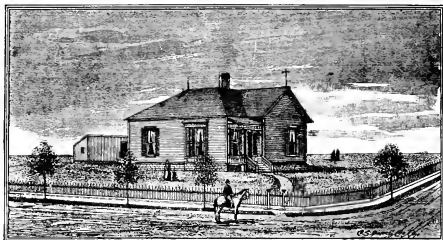
for the products of her farms and gardens, demonstrating not only the marked enterprise of her people, but her eminent fitness to be called

THE BANNER COUNTY

of Western Kansas, an honor not likely to be wrested from her for years to come. She is pre-eminently the foremost county in this grand division of the State, while yet only in her productive infancy, with but 45,718 acres of her 1,050 square miles, in cultivation. Beyond her agricultural supremacy and promise, are other resources the value of which only time and the dauntless energy of her people can fully measure. Every year brings new evidence that Ness County is

A CAPITAL FRUIT COUNTRY.

It has the elevation, soils and climate of some of the best fruit districts on the continent. The early settlers found a profusion of wild grapes, plums and cherries along the streams and in the gulches and groves. Better still, the record shows 11,738 domestic fruit trees already in bearing and 36,218 fruit trees of later growth, not yet



DR. E. B. GREENE'S COTTAGE, NESS CITY.

county, will be ready to receive the cane for conversion into fine granulated sugars. It is impossible to estimate the value of this new discovery to Ness County and this whole upper country which promises to become the most profitable and fruitful sugar-growing field in America.

MILLET AND HUNGARIAN

are both raised in good quantity, the last year's



VIEW ON THE WALNUT, IN FARNSWORTH'S PARK AT BAZINE.

BARLEY AND BECKWHEAT

are both well suited to these soils, but neither are popular crops and they are little grown. Flax makes a good crop, but is not much grown.

SORGHUM IS A ROYAL CROP

whether on upland or valley soils, in newly broken sod or old ground, and is as sure as the tide. It is fast becoming the leading fodder crop of the country, and in the light of the late successful "diffusion" process of sugar-making at Fort Scott, is bound to be

crop covering 6,797 acres, and the product nearly 15,000 tons. Rice corn is grown to some extent, never fails of a good crop and is much esteemed by the growers for feed.

IRISH AND SWEET POTATOES

were grown to the extent of 600 acres, last year. Both do well in all soils, the latter rarely failing of good yield. Garden and field vegetables are at home in these deep, rich, warm soils, and Ness County might well be christened

in bearing. The young orchards and vineyards are among the most promising and thrifty I have seen in the West, and ten years hence, Ness County fruit growers will supply the home demand with home grown fruits, of the highest quality. The apple, pear, plum, cherry and grape are all fruiting finely in the Arkansas Valley counties to the south and east, and towns only 70 miles east of Ness City and Bazine are now shipping small fruits into Western Kansas and Colorado. The smaller garden fruits are

also in bearing here with most gratifying results. Another grand Ness County resource is found in

THE NATIVE GRASSES

which now number nearly 100 varieties, most of which are valuable for hay or grazing. In the early day, the county was one vast field of

BUFFALO GRASS,

and afforded a splendid unbroken range for the ranchman, the short, sweet buffalo grass yielding ample sustenance to the herds all the year round. Outside the limited area of cultivated land, the upland prairies and a good portion of the valleys are still covered with this fine herbage, but increasing rainfall, the growing humidity of the climate and the rapid domestication of the country are bringing in

THE STALWART "BLUE STEM,"

the sure precursor of extinction to buffalo grass and a harbinger of a better day for Ness County agriculture. The rapid conquest of the country by these coarser and more succulent grasses means deeper and more perfect absorption of moisture, a vast increase in the grazing and hay-making capacity of the country, more and better winter feed for live stock, a higher grade of animals, more herds, better treatment and a higher order of stock husbandry. Hard after these new conditions will come

THE DOMESTIC GRASSES,

and with them a splendid order of variety farming which will make wealth and prosperity for this beautiful county. Timothy and clover have already been tested with most satisfactory results.

BLUE GRASS,

the grand, imperial, tenacious, all-conquering herbage of the middle latitudes, is here, too, and has come to stay. It may be found in a score of lawns and groves as rich and velvety and luxuriant as in old Kentucky and Missouri, and ten years hence will be found all over the county, green and fresh, from January to December. With this nobility of all the grasses, comes

PERENNIAL GRAZING,

and that makes a herdsman's paradise. All that is wanting to-day for this most desirable consummation, is more plowing and more fields of rye for winter pasturage. With these and the blue grass that will soon enough follow, Ness County will become

A ROYAL STOCK COUNTRY,

than which a better may not be found between the two oceans. It is a natural stock country now, with a wealth of native grasses rarely found in any country, and stock growing is by far the leading industry, but with the tame grasses on every farm and blue grass on the unbroken prairie, Ness County will indeed be

THE PREMIUM COUNTRY,

and the prize banner and purse of \$100 which her citizens were awarded for the finest general display of county products at the great district fair at Garden City, last year, will have new significance, new and grander meaning. There is

NO FINER CATTLE COUNTRY

in the West than that between the Smoky Hill and Pawnee Rivers, where splendid fortunes were made by the old ranchmen before the homesteader came to break up the range. Under the

new and better order, the herds are smaller, but vastly better and more numerous, and it is only a matter of few years when every good farmer will have his herd of thirty to fifty high grade and pure bred cattle. Of the 15,245 cattle now held in the county, fully 80 per cent. are high grade Short-Horns. The county may boast a good number of fine typical, thoroughbred Short Horns, Herefords, Polled Angus and Galloway

country in the West than Ness County, whose pure, dry, invigorating atmosphere, short, nutritious grasses and dry footing are especially suited to this class of stock. The hill and bluff districts might very profitably be stocked with sheep, 30,000 or 40,000 of which could be kept in these sections of the county without the least interference with general agriculture.

SWINE RAISING



HOME OF DR. J. W. SCOTT, NESS CITY.

cattle, the Polled and Short-Horn herds of Mr. N. C. Merrill, of Ness City, ranking with the best in Western Kansas.

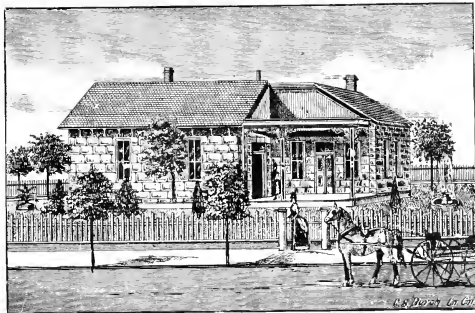
HORSES AND MULES

cut an important figure in the live stock interests of the county, the late assessor's returns showing an aggregate of 5,015 horses and 584 mules. Half a dozen years ago the Texas and Indian pony served all the purposes of the horse on the

and feeding is rapidly increasing with the growing production of corn, and will soon enough take rank with the foremost industries of the county. It is safe to say that Ness County is

A SPLENDID DAIRY COUNTRY,

the fine pasturage, clear, cold, living water, and pure, bracing, vitalizing, atmosphere all favoring the industry in high degree. While there are few practical dairymen and women in the county,



HOME OF SAM. A. SMITH, NESS CITY.

ranches, farms and roads, but in his stead to-day are fine types of the thoroughbred, standard bred draught and general purpose horse, and horse ranches for the growing of all classes of well-bred, domestic horses, are found in all portions of the county, and the industry is alike popular and profitable. Less than 1,000

SHEEP

are reported, but there is no finer natural sheep

I am assured by Mr. Seymour Mooney and lady, both experts in butter and cheese making, that there is no finer dairy region between New England and the foot hills, than the WALNUT VALLEY. The local butter and cheese market is excellent, the demand for good dairy products bring always in excess of the supply, and a score of creameries and cheese factories could find ample room for work here, and for their products a splendid

market on the plains to the southward, and in the near mountain districts on the west.

THE FENCE QUESTION

is easily solved to here, first by the herd law whose severe penalties do away with any need of fences excepting for pasture fields, and second by the universal use of stone posts, easily taken from the native quarries, and barbed wire, which is as cheap here as in the neighborhood of the great wire factories. The county already embraces over

ONE THOUSAND MILES

of stone post and wire fencing, fire-proof and rot-proof; fencing that will outlast generations of men. The

SUFFER NATURAL ROADS

of this country are the admiration of all visitors, both on account of their hardness and smoothness, and for ten months in the year, offer as fine facilities for travel or freighting, as the "pike" roads of the older States. The streams abound in rocky and gravelly fords, and very little bridging is required. The

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

are good and fast growing better. The main Denver line of the Santa Fe system is laid up the Walnut Valley, centrally through the county and is rapidly laying its track into Denver.

The D. M. & A. branch of the Missouri Pacific system crosses the north half of the county and is fast pushing its track onward to Pueblo and the mountains.

All the arrangements are made for the early completion of the Larned extension of the D. M. & A. (Mo. Pacific) Railway northwestward into the heart of the county and onward to a junction with the line already built across the county.

The Chicago, Nebraska, Kansas & Texas road is coming down from Red Cloud on the north, to Dodge City on the south, taking in Ness City and Harold on the way; other lines are projected and will be early realized as surely as have been the two roads already running through the county. These roads open up connections with the mountains on the west, Old and New Mexico, Texas, the Indian Territory and the Gulf on the south; the whole north country to Manitoba, and the vast railway systems on the east.

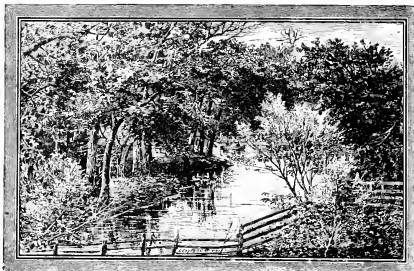
Ness County was created by act of the State Legislature in 1867, with an area of 900 square miles and was named in honor of Corporal Noah V. Ness, a brave soldier of the 7th Kansas Cavalry who fell at Abeyville, Miss., in the war for the Union. In 1873 the Legislature extended the boundaries of the county to cover its present area and in October of the same year, the county was

FORMALLY ORGANIZED,

with O. H. Perry, Thos. Myers and John Rogers, as County Commissioners, and Chas. McGuire, County Clerk. Smallwood was designated as the temporary county seat, and Mr. S. G. Rogers was chosen to represent the county in the State Leg-

islature, but owing to the illegality of the county organization, was not admitted to a seat in that body.

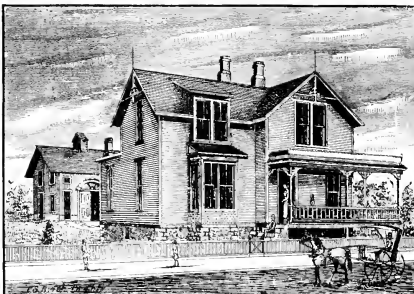
THE LEGAL AND FINAL ORGANIZATION of the county was effected in April, 1880, with J. E. Farnsworth, L. Weston and L. E. Knowles as County Commissioners, and J. H. Etting, County Clerk. Ness City was made the county seat by popular election in June, 1880.



POOL ON HACKBERRY CREEK, NESS COUNTY.

THE FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT

was made by John E. Farnsworth, who located his homestead, built his cabin, and broke the first sod on the present town site of Bazine, in 1872. Mr. McFarland, now one of the publishers of the Ness County News, and one or two others, spent



HOME OF DR. J. N. VENARD, NESS CITY.

some time in the county at an earlier period, but to Mr. Farnsworth belongs the honor of first planting civilization in this beautiful county. Others followed soon after, and before the Centennial year, the Walnut and other streams were well occupied by settlers, mostly ranchmen, whose herds were allowed to roam at will over the surrounding country. The pioneers encountered drought, hot winds, grasshoppers and other drawbacks peculiar to pioneering in Kansas and up to the final organization of the county in 1880, there were barely enough people within its borders to effect a legal organization.

THE GROWTH OF POPULATION

and material development has been very rapid

since the organization of the county. In 1880, there were twenty-five school districts organized, three schools in operation, and a total school population of only 480. To-day there are sixty-four public schools and a total school population of 1,618. In 1881, the total population of the county numbered only 2,383, and the total assessed valuation was but \$204,597. The assessed valuation of the county now reaches the handsome sum of \$1,285,777, and the population numbers 8,600.

THE PEOPLE

of Ness County are remarkably cosmopolitan for a purely rural community. They hail from New England, New York, the Middle, Southern and Western States, the Canadas, the British Islands, and Europe, and, for the most part, represent the best thought, impulse, energy, enterprise, working power and progressive tendencies of the lands from which they came. The social, mental, commercial and industrial friction of these composite elements has largely worn away provincial conceit and prejudice, stimulated personal and personal enterprise, aggregated the experience and skill of all lands and is fast developing a sort of cosmopolitan or "world character," vastly in advance of the narrow provincialism of the older countries. The work of ages in the older lands is compassed here in a single decade, by a quick, self-helpful, ready, confident, practical, and progressive people with whom

there is no doubting, halting or waiting. While they grow the grain and herbs to feed the million, they find ample time and inclination for the cultivation of flowers and literature and art; for the building and founding of schools, the founding and fostering of newspapers, building temples to the spiritual and ideal, cultivating the social graces, and founding and beautifying homes like men and women who have

COME TO STAY.

They are social, cordial and hospitable, and have the bravery, easy self-command, boundless enterprise, splendid working gifts and liberal tendencies of all composite communities; are squarely abreast with the march of modern progress and in the midst of an intensely practical life, have yet within and around them so much of the ideal, that he is indeed a dull observer who sees not in their relations to the grainfields and herds and the poetry of the sweet pastoral landscape, a union of the practical and ideal that is yet to make for them the perfect human life. They have organized

SIXTY-FOUR FREE SCHOOLS,

built sixty-four schools; have an enrollment of 1,618 school children; provide generously for the education of every child of fortune or lowly birth in the county; have a public school system that would honor any eastern county, and have recently closed a four-weeks' session of a county teachers' institute, whose work is a splendid com-

mentary on the courage, discipline, earnestness and enthusiasm of the young and ambitious educators of the county. The public morals are fostered by

A GOOD NUMBER OF CHURCHES, representing nearly all the leading denomina-

well suited to stock raising, are selling anywhere from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per acre, according to quality and location. Clean, smooth, high prairie lands in the wild state, or with only slight improvements, are worth from \$5 to \$8 per acre. Wild lands in the bottoms and valleys, with plenty of

general asking and selling prices, but there are many wild tracts and improved farms held at higher figures. Location, quality of land and improvements govern values here as they do everywhere. There are choice well improved upland and valley farms that could not be purchased for the prices given. There are

NO GOVERNMENT LANDS

left in Ness County, at least none worthy of mention, for they were all absorbed two and three years ago by the great army of land seekers and home-builders who invaded western Kansas in those years. There are to day

NO GOVERNMENT LANDS IN KANSAS

worth the notice of the honest thrifty settler. The homesteaders have swept over the country into eastern Colorado, and like an army of grasshoppers, will have cleaned up all the good public land as far out as the foot-hills by July, 1888. The new settler in Kansas

MUST BE A PURCHASER

now, if he would have ownership in the soil. A good many homesteads, pre-emption and timber-claim relinquishments may be purchased in Ness County, at prices ranging from \$400 to \$800 per quarter section, the purchaser of course being obliged to make a new filing in his own name, and fulfill all the requirements of the government as to settlement, improvement, final proofs, payment, &c. Choice claims more or less improved and located near towns, are often held at higher figures, but these are general or ruling prices, which are lower to-day than they ever will be again. Under the influence of a universally dry season, shorter crops than usual, and the general depression in values throughout the whole



HAYWARD AND HOOVER BLOCK, NESS CITY.

tions, and the new comer will find the church of his choice accessible from almost any neighborhood in the county. There are

HALF A DOZEN NEWSPAPERS

in the county, representing a high measure of journalistic ability and enterprise, and the three banking houses of the county are on a solid footing. The county presents

A PICTURE OF MATERIAL THRIFT

that is assuring to see. The pioneer sod cabins and rude dugouts are fast giving place to neat stone and frame farm houses. Young orchards and groves, broad grain fields, thrifty herds, green hedgerows and fruitful gardens break the monotony of the prairie and set the seal of a bright and permanent civilization on one of the fairest regions of the new West. And best of all, there is in this broad and fertile and fairest of western Kansas counties

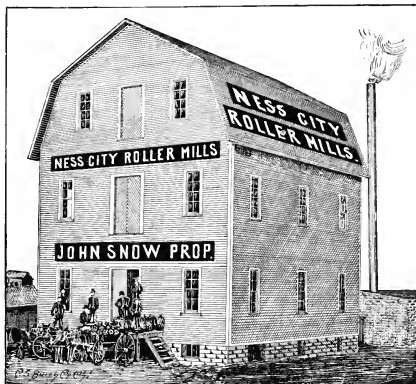
ROOM FOR FORTY THOUSAND MORE

good men and women in the practical ways of home-building and bread-getting. Room and splendid opportunity for farmers, stock growers, dairymen, breeders, feeders, fruit growers, tree planters and market gardeners, with illimitable markets for all they can produce. Room for mechanics and live traders; room and a matchless field for investors in lands and town properties; room for good sterling men and women from every land to aid those already on the ground in making destiny for one of the fairest and most fertile regions on the continent. Does the reader want to know something about

LAND VALUES

in Ness County? Well, here are the figures. Wild lands in the rougher hill and bluff districts,

running water, are selling all the way from \$8 to \$12 per acre.



NESS CITY ROLLER MILLS.

IMPROVED FARMS,

with a well, sod buildings, enclosed pastures, twenty to sixty acres under plow, and perhaps a young orchard and grove, are selling at \$7 to \$12 per acre on the high prairies, and from \$9 to \$15 per acre in the valleys and bottoms. The above figures refer to deeded lands and are given as

country, land values in Ness County, as everywhere in the country,

HAVE TOUCHED BOTTOM,

and three or five months hence, the prices above given are not likely to govern except in sale of inferior lands. Indeed, so many and potent are the influences now favoring a rapid advancement

in all classes of realty that no one in Ness County will be surprised to see lands

DOUBLE IN VALUE

within the next eight months. The building of railways; the rapid building up of new towns; the steady and strong inflow of new men, new capital and new enterprise from without; the growing confidence of the public in a bright future for Kansas agriculture and the certainty that the near future will develop in the western half of the State a vast, universal and highly profitable sugar-making industry, are "all and singular" forces that are steadily and surely bearing land values up to something like their intrinsic worth, and that is so near to the commercial value of similar lands 300, 400 and 500 miles further east, that the present investor in Ness County landed property has before him only favor and fortune. To the foregoing general notes upon Ness County, I am pleased to add a brief review of

NESS CITY,

the capital and chief commercial town of the county. This remarkably prosperous and rapidly growing young city, which may safely be pronounced the most promising of all towns in the western division of Kansas, was

FOUNDED

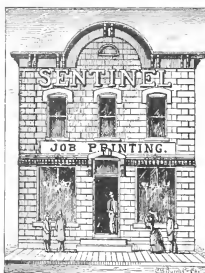
by Ross Calhoun, who made his soldier's filing upon the quarter section embracing the original town site, in the Spring of 1878, and the following June opened the pioneer store. In October of the same year, he formally laid out the town and invited "the world and the rest of mankind" to join him in building here.

THE BANNER CITY OF THE BANNER COUNTY in Western Kansas. G. H. Smith, who came to the county early in the Spring of '78 built his "Emigrant's Home," a rude sod cabin, the following December, opened a land office thereon, unfurled his memorable red flag to the breeze, and advertised for a big business in the location of settlers. These two wide-awake pioneers were soon followed by a goodly company of other

men as ever undertook the subjugation of a beautiful wilderness to human uses. Its

CENTRAL AND COMMANDING LOCATION

soon gave Ness City prominence as a candidate for county seat honors, and, after a warmly con-



WALNUT VALLEY SENTINEL OFFICE, NESS CITY.

tested fight with the neighboring town of Sidney, it was made the county seat in June, 1880,—the choice of the people being confirmed by a decision of the Supreme Court in 1883. Like the ancient city of the Hebrew kings, Ness City is

"BEAUTIFUL FOR SITUATION."

It stands upon a commanding location, near the geographical centre of the county, overlooking the clear, winding Walnut River, with its broad sweep of matchless valley and charming native woodlands, and is rich in environments that any city in the Sunflower State might envy. For sixty-five miles eastward to Great Bend, the

tility, to Jetmore, the capital of Hodgeman County, the nearest competing town in that direction. Thirty miles west, beyond the fair and fertile rolling prairies of the upper Walnut, lies Dighton, the nearest competing town in that quarter. Forty miles northward, across the matchless and magnificent "Dutch Flats," and beyond the Smoky Hill Valley, is Wakeeney, the nearest competing town on the Union Pacific Railway. Within this splendid radius lies

AN EMPIRE OF BEAUTY AND BOUNTY,

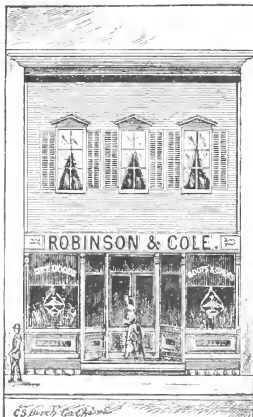
as rich as ever lay in the southwestern sunshine, and with productive capabilities equal to the building and fostering of a city of 10,000 souls, and this is manifest destiny to the capital city of Ness County. It is 250 miles west to the foothills where Denver and Pueblo are building up giant railway, industrial and commercial rivalries for the mastery of the measureless wealth of the mountains beyond. It is 325 miles eastward to Kansas City, the railway and commercial centre of the richest agricultural kingdom on the green earth. Eighty miles south is the Indian Territory, famous and fabulous in natural wealth and beauty, and eighty miles northward are the interminable grain fields of Nebraska. Within this broad radius and well out in the elevated plains of Western Kansas, nature, destiny, railway development and the rapidly growing needs of agriculture and commerce have decreed the building of

A STRONG CITY;

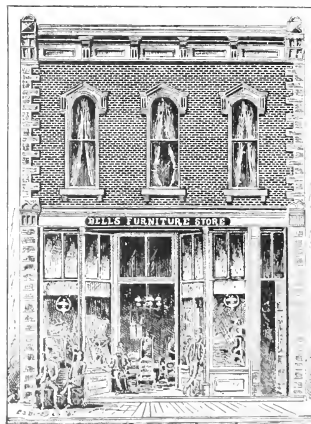
a city worthy of the location, and commensurate with the demands of a large and growing population. The chief elements for the building of such a town are found here in grand measure; and if Ness City be not the favored candidate for its honors and emoluments, the fault will rest alone with her own people. She has a tributary country broad and rich enough for

A SPLENDID BEGINNING.

No town in Western Kansas can rival the beauty and health of her location, and none is so central and commanding. Among the chief elements of



ROBINSON & COLE GENERAL STORE, NESS CITY.



WHEELER FURNITURE STORE, NESS CITY.

equally resolute men, and the next year found here a typical pioneer Kansas town, with a score or more of sod houses, frame shanties, stables, primitive outhouses and hawking houses, handful of as brave, self-helpful, invincible and hospitable

nearest rival town, in that direction, flows the Walnut River down the fairest and richest valley in Western Kansas. It is thirty miles southward across the beautiful valley of the Smoky Hills, over plain and table lands of rare grace and fer-

her present and future prosperity is

SUPERB NATURAL DRAINAGE, facilitated by a series of draws and ravines that make sewerage for a large city easy, perfect and comparatively inexpensive. She has

THE FINEST WATER SUPPLY

possessed by any town in this division of the State. Living wells of purest water are cheaply obtained at thirty to fifty feet depth. Within the city limits is her beautiful limpid and sparkling "Sunset Lake," an inexhaustible pool of clear, cold spring water, fed by fountains of great volume, and forming a basis of supply for

PUBLIC WATER WORKS,

on a scale equal to the needs of a city of 25,000 people, and a movement is already on foot for the establishment of a water-works plant commensurate with the present and prospective wants of the town. The city is environed with a cordon of stone quarries that furnish

THE FINEST SUPPLY OF BUILDING STONE

to be found in Western Kansas; the quality of the white and cream tinted magnesian stones, cheaply taken from these quarries, being exceeded in quality and quantity by no deposits of superior building stones this side of the marble quarries of New England.

THE WALNUT RIVER SANDS,

along the very borders of the city, are among the best found in the western country, and like the matchless building stones are equal to all future demands either for local use or export.

The entire city and its near environments abound in

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITES,

wherein the cottager or man of fortune may plant his roof-tree and rear his home in command of some delightful valley view. The city is

ADMIRABLY PLATTED

with broad streets and avenues, giving it everywhere an air of amplitude and leisure and comfort alike creditable to its founder and the later property owners who have planned and executed its extension. It is

TASTEFULLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT

too, and bears in every part an air of solidity, good taste and permanency. Evidently, the people are *here to stay*. The typical western shanty is a *rara avis* in Ness City. Men of brain and cultivated taste, and strong local attachments, are at the helm in every department of creative life, and as the reader may see in our illustrations, are working along well chosen lines of modern and progressive

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARCHITECTURE.

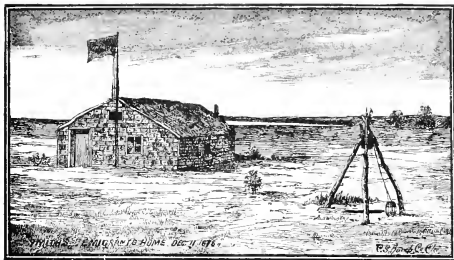
The visitor is a readily surprised with the number of pretty, cozy, comfortable cottages and the more so with the more elegant homes of Messrs. Wetherbee, Merrill, Ogden, Gardner, Miner, Rogers, Scott, Venard and others which are but the vanguard of a multitude of beautiful homes planned or projected. The new blocks and business houses of Messrs. Hayward, Laraway, Bell, Smith and Brinton, Fleming and Potter and the First National Bank, on the east side, and the Borthwick Bros. Bank, the business houses and blocks of Judge Barnard and Messrs. McFarland, Knight and Shepard, on the west side, are as fine types of solid and tasteful commercial architecture as most eastern towns of this class can boast. Among the more noteworthy public buildings are the elegant new public school house, the handsome new Calhoun House and the new M. E. Church, all structures that would well bespeak a city of 10,000 souls. The near future will bring to this beautiful young city

A HANDSOME COURT HOUSE

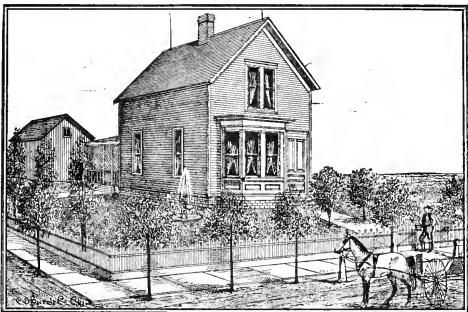
whose architecture and magnitude will be eminently worthy of the wealth, beauty and dignity of the banner county of Western Kansas. In keeping too, with the marked enterprise of the city will come a series of public and private

PARKS

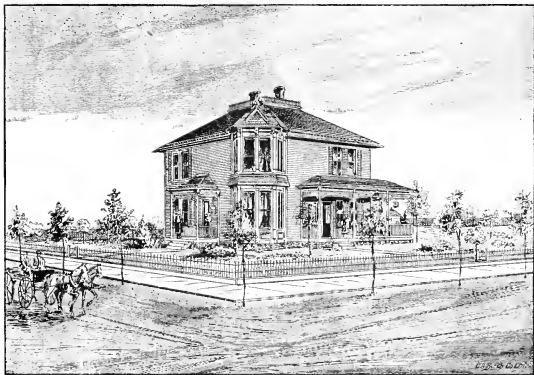
the first of which postmaster J. W. Brown will next spring dedicate to public uses and adorn with pleasant walks and drives, shade trees, rustic seats, choice shrubs, plants and blooms, fountains and other attractions of a delightful public resort, preparations for which are already under way.



G. H. SMITH'S PIONEER EMIGRANTS' HOME, NESS CITY. BUILT IN 1878



HOME OF GEO. S. REDD, NESS CITY.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN R. GARDNER, NESS CITY.

PUBLIC AND PERSONAL ENTERPRISE

is stamped on every lineament of the city and finds admirable expression in the building of pretty houses, fine stores, banks, hotels, mills, churches and school houses, and the founding and liberal support of newspapers and societies. The city has one handsome new church, two more in process of construction and others in prospect.

THE NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, an elegant stone structure of impressive design,



THE TRAVELING OUTFIT OF TWO YALE STUDENTS, AS THEY ARRIVED IN NESS CITY IN ADVANCE OF THE RAILWAY, IN SEARCH OF A LOCATION.

admirable plan and equally fine finish, now rapidly approaching completion at a cost of \$17,000, is a splendid commentary alike upon the educational pride of the city and the executive and financial ability of the sagacious and spirited city school board.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

express the maximum of popular interest in education and are a compliment to a community that is well up in the best arts of our advanced civilization. The

SOCIAL LIFE

of the city is alike rational and enjoyable. Here as everywhere in Kansas, are the liberalizing forces of a composite population that give breadth of courage and frankness; freedom from cheap meaningless social constraint; and above all, the spirit of a refreshing independence to the social order of a sensible, intelligent, cordial and hospitable people, who are always ready to accord the worthy new comer a generous western welcome. The visitor will find here too, quite as much mental and social refinement as in towns of this class in the older States. The people are

A UNIT

on everything that promises prosperity to their favorite town. Every worthy public enterprise meets a hearty and quick response from the alert workers of this brave, buoyant, bustling, busy and booming young city.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

with its railway extension, trade extension, public improvement, city extension, industrial, advertising and finance committees, is doing a capital work for the advancement of the town.

THE CITY COUNCIL

too, is made up of the best working material on the ground, and is square up with the progressive tendency of the people on all matters of public improvement. Strong, earnest, courageous and confident men lead in every department of local life, men whose

FAITH AND WORKING POWER

are equal to the building up of a city on the borders of Sahara. All around them, in rich profusion, are the best elements of town-building, and they are making splendid use of their opportunity. If some of them are wanting in abundant

cash, all of them have in good measure, the higher capital of courage, brain and heart, with the ready tact to turn it to best account. They have

SUBLIME FAITH IN THE FUTURE

of Ness City, because they have faith in themselves, and wait not on specious or extraneous forces to build them up, but are resolutely building themselves up by the agencies at their command. Braver or better men than they who planted the standards of commerce and industry on this beautiful plateau in 1875 and '76, never undertook the rough work of town-building on the border. Other men of kindred thought, impulse and ambition were later attracted hither by sympathetic magnetism, until the border hamlet has grown to a

STRONG COMMANDING CITY.

The pioneers laid the basis for a comprehensive work, and with characteristic energy and spirit, the men of to-day are carrying it to a splendid issue. In the quiet unobtrusive of

THE LIFE THEY LIVE,

there is doubtless something of the ideal, but to the superficial observer, Ness City is thoroughly materialistic. They live and labor, and love even, by stern, practical Roman methods. They are creating facts, not fancies, and seem bent on building a strong, central, commercial city, worthy of themselves and the location, and the observant visitor is quite ready to believe in their success. It is refreshing to the eastern visitor to pass a day or week in a city

NO SIGN OF HALTING

that gives or doubting, but is radiant with tokens of social, intellectual and material progress. I confess to a nature set mainly in the minor key, and to a love of sentiment that is sometimes all-absorbing, but am inclined to admire the bravery and dash and self-assertion of these men, who live and

LITTLE HIDE-BOUND CONSERVATISM

among the leading men of Ness City. Three or four "skin-flints" will cover the entire list. And happily, there are even fewer dead-and-alive money-grubs who live on the misfortunes of their neighbors, and to whom "two-per-cent-a-month" is a higher privilege than the founding and building of a noble city. Bankers, merchants, land and loan men—everybody—put their earnings into

BRICKS AND STONES AND MORTAR

and the manifold ways of material progress. Among all the new towns in Western Kansas, I have found no parallel to the growth and solid prosperity of Ness City. Two years ago there were less than 300 souls on this beautiful town-site, and to-day there are

FOURTEEN HUNDRED WIDE-AWAKE PEOPLE, within a radius of one mile of the mayor's office. Ness City grows like magic, but it is the creation of human hands. No wonder-working Monte Christo has wrought here while the world was sleeping. Strong men of muscle and brain and heart have well done their work here, and a live, luminous driving young city is their appropriate and characteristic issue. They have had

A BUILDING BOOM

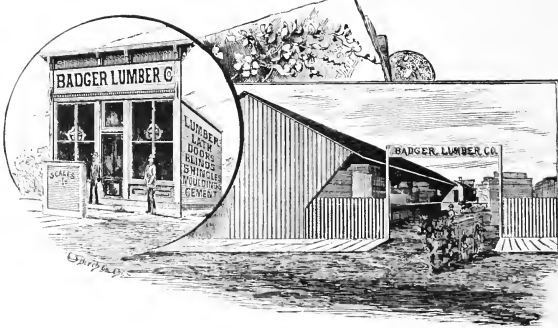
of splendid proportions ever since the coming of the railway in February 1887, and there is no sign of its abatement before Ness City is a town of 5,000 souls. During the year 1887, more than

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY NEW BUILDINGS

have been completed within the city at a total cost of \$825,000. Among these are nineteen brick and stone business houses; two brick and stone bank buildings; three large hotels; a large and elegant stone school-house; a handsome church; several frame business houses; some of the finest homes in Western Kansas, and a large number of pretty cottages. The

NEXT YEAR'S BUILDING BOOM

is already well assured by ample preparations for the construction of several new business blocks



BADGER LUMBER CO.'S YARDS, NESS CITY.

Labor and love in the stern realisms of a practical and creative life. There is

NOTHING, SORDID OR STINTED

in the make-up of a live trading city. Commerce is pre-eminently humane, liberal and progressive. It leads and fashions civilization, gives a sort of conservatism bent to thoughtful action, and inspires a generous hospitality such as I have an hundred times met in the banks, stores, hotels and workshops of this radiant young metropolis of the Walnut Valley. There is very

and a good number of homes, some of which, in style and finish, will rival the finest in this region. Nor is this rather remarkable building boom without justification. The extent and natural wealth of the tributary country; the certainty of a large and substantial spring immigration; the unflinching confidence of builders and investors in a bright future for Ness County, and the certainty that Ness City is ready-onably soon to become

A RAILWAY CENTRE

of more than common magnitude, are some of

the causes that are bearing this town to a proud position among the foremost cities of Kansas. The Santa Fe Railway is already here with its direct line to Denver and the mountains, and Ness City is already the leading commercial and shipping point between Great Bend and Denver. The D. M. & A. Branch of

THE MISSOURI PACIFIC

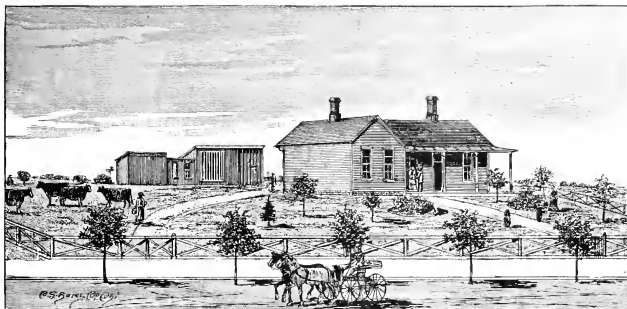
lines, will make Ness City an important point on a new middle line within the next twenty months, or the writer has cast his railway horoscope to little purpose. Within that time, too, will come

THE B. & M. RAILWAY

(C., B. & Q.) on its southwestern way from Concordia to the Pan Handle and El Paso. These great trunk lines will be followed by

NATURALLY ATTRACT RAILWAYS,

and they come almost of their own volition. The building of these roads will attract hither hundreds of able farmers, large capital for permanent and speculative investment, cheap fuel, cheap lumber, cheaper machinery and merchandise, railway competition, and, withal, stimulate farm production to a volume that of itself will take



G. H. SMITH'S STOCK FARM, NEAR NESS CITY.

Railway from Larned northwest to Utica, where it is to join the road already built and operated by this corporation through the north part of the county, is provided for, and will be running its trains into Ness City in the early summer of 1888. The coming of this powerful rival of the Santa Fe will give the city a new boom in building, trade and realty values, in comparison with which that of 1887 will seem of minor account; for it means the same freedom from railway exactions and the same new impulse to trade, industry, travel and production, which the advent of

THE C. N. K. & T. RAILWAY,

or its successor, from Red Cloud, Neb., southward to Dodge City and the Pan Handle. The surveys for this important north and south road are already made via Ness City, and its construction will not be long delayed.

THE INTER-STATE AND DENVER RAILROAD, a new line lately chartered for a road from Madison, in Greenwood County, northwest to Denver, and behind which there is said to be plenty of capital, makes Ness City a point. Its eastern

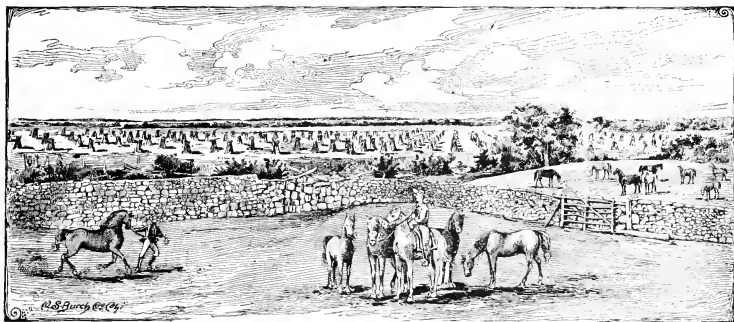
care of a good sized city. It will develop

MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE

too, on a good scale, for no town in the west half of the State has a more desirable location for industrial work. Beyond a few flouring, feed and planing mills, the manufactories of the State are almost entirely in the eastern half. The city has made a fair start in this line with

THE NESS CITY FLOURING MILLS,

owned and operated by Mr. John Snow, 34 x 42 feet on the ground, three stories high, ex-



VIEW ON HON. J. P. JOHNSON'S RANCH, LOOKING DOWN THE WALNUT VALLEY. EIGHT MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

this great railway system has given to Arkansas City, Wichita, Hutchinson, Newton, Eldorado, McPherson and many another Kansas town that will long keep in grateful memory the day and occasion of its coming. The Missouri Pacific is already at the gates of Pueblo and will give Ness City railway connections of incalculable value.

THE ROCK ISLAND

system which is now pushing westward to the mountains by northern and southern Kansas

connections are already made, and the road is likely to be completed at an early day. Other lines are pointing this way, and the years are not distant when Ness City will have become one of the strongest railway points in the State. The central position of Ness City and its relations to the large metropolitan cities of the Missouri Valley and the mountains, together with the wealth, beauty and extent of the tributary country, and the unlimited supply of water and building stone

clusive of the basement, and substantially built. They are equipped with full roller process and other modern mill machinery; have a daily capacity of seventy-five barrels; were built in 1886 by Mr. Snow, and are among the most valuable mill properties in Western Kansas. Mr. Snow, who is an old and accomplished miller, sells the entire product of the mills in Ness and the neighboring counties, and speaks confidently of the milling outlook for this region. He is a

native of England,—a square, earnest, energetic business man, and estimable citizen; likes the country, and has great faith in the future of Ness County. The mills are driven by steam, and run to full capacity on fine brands of merchant work that have deserved popularity in this region. Among other local industries are the brickmaking works of Herman & Ogden, which have this year turned out about 100,000 bricks, which are finding ready sale in the home market.

A SORGHUM SUGAR MILL.

Now being actively canvassed by the Board of Trade, is among the new industries likely to find realization in the near future. No part of Kansas is better suited to the growth of sorghum than Ness County, and the public spirited men of this live city are bound to carry this new project to a successful issue. A dozen sugar mills of large capacity are now under construction in Eastern and Central Kansas, with every prospect of successful operation the coming season, and Ness City will soon be found in line with the enterprising cities which are leading in an enterprise that promises more wealth and prosperity to Kansas than any other industry ever established within its borders. The city is fortunate in the possession of

A VALUABLE WATER POWER,

within its corporate limits, and which up to the present time, has attracted little attention. This power, which is furnished by the Walnut River, is quite strong enough to drive a good flour, paper or planing mill, either of which would prove a valuable acquisition to the town. Another enterprise that, in practical hands, could hardly fail of good results to the city, is the founding of

A CREAMERY AND CHEESE FACTORY

within its borders. No town in Kansas has better facilities for the successful prosecution of these noble industries that have made the fortune of many an eastern town. Time, immigration, material development, and the growth of capital, will bring these and many other industries now greatly needed by the city. Ness City is unquestionably

THE BRIGHTEST TRADING TOWN

in Western Kansas. She commands a broad, rich farm region, which must always furnish a splendid commercial patronage, and though but a single year's growth beyond the mere hamlet of 1886, has to-day had a hundred business concerns, whose aggregate trade for 1887 exceeds

ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

The trade in general merchandise, hardware, lumber, farm machinery, general farm and ranch supplies, flour, feed, grain, provisions and other merchandise, would honor any many an eastern town of 5,000 souls. The volume of local trade, like the growth of population, has increased 200 per cent in the past year. Saturday in Ness City seems more like a "high day" in the older western towns, than an ordinary trade day in a live western town. It is not an exceptional or uncommon occasion to see 200 and 300 teams and saddle horses on the streets of this driving young city on the closing day of almost any week in the year.

THE MERCHANTS

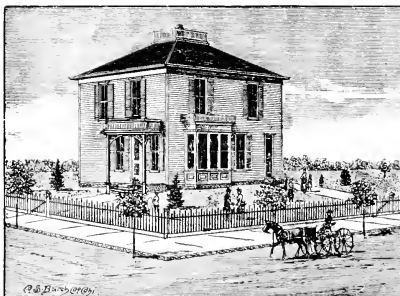
are quite equal to the demands of the day and the occasion. They are not only men skilled in the best ways of commerce, square up to the best mercantile methods, and on the most part, appreciate and engage in trade as an art to be cultivated, rather than a mere speculative venture. Many of them carry large stocks, handle their work with precision, and on the most part, discount their bills and bid for the highest credit.

The general merchandise trade is ably represented by Calhoun Brothers, who are driving a large and prosperous business. This house was founded in 1878, by Ross Calhoun (the founder of Ness City) who is still its head and business manager, and is one of the solid concerns of Western Kansas. Mr. Calhoun is a man of clear, well disciplined brain, large heart, warm and kindly impulse, and boundless personal and public enterprise, and from early to late has been the



ROSS CALHOUN'S PIONEER STORE, NESS CITY. BUILT IN 1878.

leading, inspiring, influential worker for every good local enterprise. He has given away a good sized fortune in aid of schools, churches, city extension, railway, immigration and a score of other public enterprises, and is largely responsible for the remarkable growth and prosperity of Ness City. Mr. Calhoun is a member of the city school board, and president of the State Bank of Ness City. His lately built and furnished the elegant Calhoun House; owns large and valuable additions to Ness City, and from a capital of less than \$1500 in 1878, has made a handsome fortune in city property, bank stocks, lands and merchant dis. He has too, in grand measure, the higher fortune of a brave, frank, manly and magnanimous nature; is a born business man, of clear accurate forecast and ripe judgment, and will be long and kindly remembered for his good offices



HOME OF JESSE SHIELDS, NESS CITY.

in behalf of a city that bears in every part the impress of his public spirit and splendid working gifts. I need hardly add that Mr. Calhoun is delighted with a city and county that have brought him ample fortune and a good sized army of friends.

Mr. O. H. Laraway, a level-headed Vermont, who came to Ness County in 1879, with little means, and has ever since been selling general merchandise, carries heavy stocks in one of the handsomest new stores in the western country, and is named to the writer as one of the ablest

and best merchants in this region. He is an accomplished dealer, has a large trade, ranks high in business circles, has made his means on the spot, is one of the strong men of the city, and swears by Ness County.

Beymer & Edgerston carry large and fine stocks of general merchandise, and will signal their first year in this line with a \$300,000 trade. They are young gentlemen of fine mercantile gifts, high education, and decided enterprises; are pioneers in the free delivery plan, make a fine display of merchandise, and are among the later and most valuable acquisitions to the trading community. Both hail from the land of the Hawkeyes, and speak in high terms of Ness City and County. Mr. Beymer is a son of the late G. W. Beymer, of Afton, Iowa, one of the best men that ever crossed the "Big Muddy," and has recently settled down to the pleasures of domestic life, with one of the fairest daughters of the Hawkeye Kingdom. The firm is on a solid basis, and has a bright mercantile future.

Robinson & Cole carry large and elegant stocks of general merchandise, have taken a high position in local business circles, have a large and rapidly growing trade and will close their first year's experience here with a most flattering exhibit of business. They are young gentlemen of exceptionally high business gifts, have ample means and sterling credit; are a capital acquisition to local business circles, hail from Eastern Kansas, and are both delighted with the situation.

Mr. T. B. Allen, late of Illinois, has recently built a fine new store and put on sale a valuable stock of general merchandise which he handles with the skill of a mercantile artist. He is a born merchant of many years experience; knows the business like an open book, and is building up a capital trade. Mr. Allen has recently purchased a model Walnut Valley farm and some valuable town property; is a gentleman of substantial means and rare business qualities; has put every dollar of his rapidly increasing income to a property and local trade, and confidently believes in a bright future for the country.

L. M. Bice & Son are handling heavy stocks of general merchandise, and are among the solid and prosperous merchants of this region. Mr. Bice came to Ness County from New York in 1874, and has since been identified with the county as a farmer and merchant. He has ample means, excellent credit and high standing, among his neighbors; owns a handsome and finely improved farm at Schoharie; is a strong representative man, has unlimited faith in Ness County and with his wide-awake and efficient son and partner, is driving a large and prosperous trade.

Mr. Wm. H. Hoover, one of the early settlers and a prime, manly Tennesseean, who has been in general trade here since '79, is doing a good trade in general merchandise; has lately built two handsome stores on the Heyward-Hoover place, and like all the rest of them, has warm admiration for Ness County. He owns 480 acres of choice farm land and is well liked generally.

The clothing and furnishing goods trade is admirably handled by R. B. Linville, whose stocks, business methods, ready sales and commercial ability and standing are alike commensurate to his position in the city. Mr. Linville owns a fine 480 acre stock farm; is a member of the city council and one of the live representative men of the county. He came here from Mississippi in 1874, and has a boundless admiration for Western Kansas and the progressive spirit of its people.

The furniture business is finely represented by Ingersoll & Anderson, whose ample stock of furniture, upholstery, undertakers' goods, carpets,

bric-a-brac and kindred merchandise, are highly creditable to the city. They are wide-awake, capable and ambitious young business men; are

Scott & Venard lead the trade in drugs and kindred merchandise, with a fine well-stocked store at each end of the city. They are wide

This rich and widely known corporation whose yards in Kansas are almost as "thick as leaves in Valambrosa," is ably represented here by Mr. A. H. Clark as manager and local partner. Their sales from this yard for 1887, will closely approximate 2,000,000 feet. Mr. Clark is a prime, public-spirited Buckeye and one of the most popular business men of the city; and after two years residence here, believes Ness County is destined to become a rich farm country.

The hardware and farm machinery trade of the city is carried to large proportions by a good number of firms, among which I am pleased to name Messrs Fleming & Potter whose Pioneer Hardware Store is one of the finest institutions of the kind in Western Kansas. This handsome new brick and stone store which fronts upon two streets, and has a total depth of 140 feet, with two stories and basement, embraces the handsomest salesrooms, warehouses and shops west of Great Bend; is provided with a Rutan heating plant, and large elevator and is admirably finished from base to loft. The spirited owners have expended \$50,000 in its construction and have it heavily stocked with hardware, stoves, tinware and farm machinery in which they have a yearly trade of \$100,000. They began business here in 1884 with little means; have advanced to the front mercantile ranks of the city; are live, earnest, progressive, successful and public spirited men and are in love with the country. They represent the great states of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and are among the squarest and most capable men of the city.

W. H. & A. T. Dann, formerly of St. Louis, have been in the hardware and farm machinery trade here since 1884, and rank with the foremost dealers in the city. They are live, go-ahead, capable men; have a large and prosperous trade, and are on a solid footing. The senior member is an old-timer in this region, and is actively engaged in the land business at Wakeeney. Mr. A. T. Dann, the business manager of the firm, owns a pretty suburban fruit and stock farm. Both are well pleased with the country, and are here to stay.

Pearce & Fisher, live and progressive young Pennsylvanians, have recently built an extensive store and warehouse, and put in large and valuable stocks of hardware, stoves, tinware and farm



M. E. CHURCH, NESS CITY.

building up a strong trade and are much pleased with the country.

Mr. M. J. Ingersoll, of this firm, is also running a brisk and rapidly growing business in books, stationery, news, cigars, confectionery, fruits, &c., at his post-office stand, where he has charge of the local sale of the Ness County Hand-Book. He is a bright, driving, earnest young business man of capital ability, has a good farm near Beelerville, hails from the good old State of Illinois, and is greatly impressed with the country.

C. W. Bell has made a decided success of the furniture trade, and has a fine new store, stocked to repletion with everything in this line. Mr. Bell is a business "ruster," has made money here, swears by the Grand Army and Ness County, keeps a good bank account, pays as he goes, and is one of the liveliest men in the kingdom.

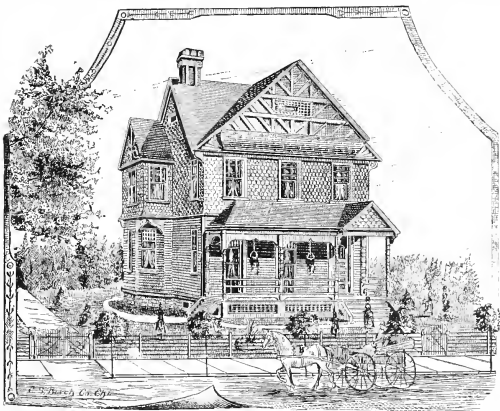
Mr. J. E. Firestone, a wide awake and public-spirited Hoosier, who came here in 1885, has a good stock of groceries, general hardware and farm machinery, and enjoys a good trade. He owns \$20 acres of land and some valuable city property; has made some money in buying and selling lands, and is decidedly pleased with the country. Mr. Firestone is also interested in the harness, saddlery and horse furnishing business of J. L. Halloway & Co., and is here to stay.

Mayer Brothers, whose bakery, restaurant, fancy grocery and confectionery establishment has come to be one of the standard institutions of the city, are new men here, having opened business last summer. They came here from South Bend, Ind., are accomplished bakers and caterers, have a fine patronage, are courteous and obliging men, and speak in glowing terms of the country.

The flour, feed and grain trade of the city takes heavy volume, and is ably represented by John R. Gardner, with a large new warehouse, which will soon be enlarged with a capacious feed mill addition. Mr. Gardner is one of the early settlers and ablest business men of the city; has a valuable suburban farm, hails from Iowa, came here empty-handed, has made a handsome property, and pronounces the climate of Ness County the finest of his knowledge.

awake, spirited businessmen and honored members of the medical profession; have each an elegant home, and hold the country in high esteem.

The trade in lumber and building materials is carried to splendid proportions by four able concerns with well stocked yards and warehouses, among the foremost of which is the Badger Lum-



HOME OF N. C. MERRILL, UNDER CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE EARLY SPRING. AT NESS CITY.

ber Co. whose extensive yards, sheds, warehouses and stocks of pine lumber and kindred building materials would honor a city of 10,000 souls.

machinery, in which they are building up a strong trade. They are well-trained merchants, and popular, progressive and manly young men; are backed

by abundant capital, and are greatly pleased with the country and people.

E. C. Sewell & Bro. are handling large and fine stocks of general hardware, stoves, tinware and farm machinery, and are doing an excellent trade. They came here from Illinois in 1886; have already won a good position in business circles; have each a 160-acre farm; are bright, well bred and well disciplined young business men, and pronounce Ness County a capital field for enterprising young eastern men.

The millinery, ladies furnishing and fancy goods trade is ably and successfully represented by Mrs. S. A. Wilson and daughter, the Misses Ferrell and Miss Ogden, each and all with elegant stocks, business patronage, and mercantile ability that would compliment many an older and larger city.

The coal trade of the city is largely handled by Mr. C. R. Fleming, whose annual sales will exceed 1500 tons. Mr. Fleming is one of the most popular and capable business men of the town, and forecasts a brilliant future for Ness City and County.

Among the foremost contractors and builders

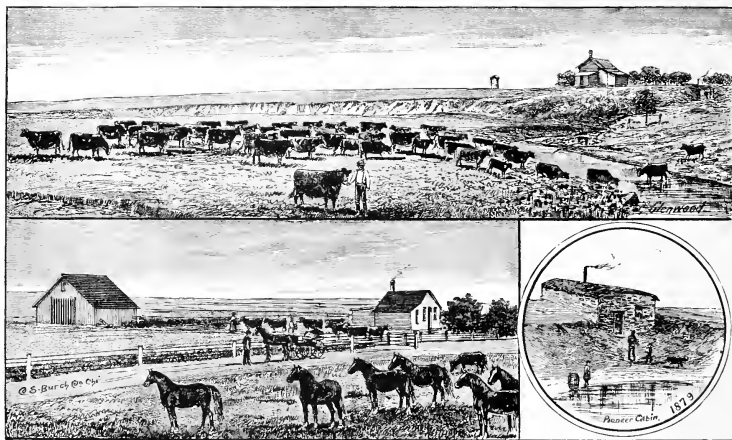
pleased to mention in this connection if space permitted. Business enterprise, in all lines, is greatly facilitated by

THE LOCAL BANKS

whose number and available capital are quite equal to the needs of local trade. The Ness County Bank, organized in July, 1885, is the pioneer banking house of the county, and is strongly fortified in the popular confidence. Mr. N. C. Merrill, its founder, president and manager, is recognized as an able, sagacious and successful business manager and financier; has acquired a handsome property in farm lands, herds, city realty, commercial securities and ready means, and given the Ness County Bank high standing for careful and conservative management and financial solidity. Mr. Merrill has been especially fortunate in his Ness County investments; is accredited with a large measure of clear forecast, sound judgment and prime executive gifts; is personally popular with the farmers, stockmen and business men of the county; has always been a strong, steady, influential worker for the city and county, and has eastern connections that give his

high character and credit, and have built up a large and profitable business in loans, discounts and exchange. Borthwick Bros. have recently completed one of the most beautiful bank buildings in Kansas, and before this book is in circulation will be doing business in quarters whose elegance and convenience will well compare with the finer banking offices of the older cities. They are young gentlemen of sterling worth, enterprise and public spirit; take a strong hand in every good movement for the advancement of the city; have profound faith in a bright future for Ness County, and are on the sure road to fortune.

The State Bank of Ness City incorporated in the early summer of 1886, with a capital of \$100,000 was formally opened for business in July '86. Ross Calhoun the founder of the city and the well known and wealthy merchant and real estate owner, is president; Jacob Nicholson, a prominent farmer, is vice-president; C. E. Clarkson, cashier, and Roy A. Thompson, assistant cashier. The State Bank is a home institution, the shareholders all being Ness County men, and has made a record which many an older bank might envy. Its surplus earnings, which already equal 20 per



N. C. MERRILL'S "GLENWOOD" STOCK FARM, 3 MILES NORTHEAST OF NESS CITY.

of the city, I am pleased to name Mr. O. G. Hayward, a leading contracting stone mason, and the builder and owner of the Hayward block, a handsome stone and brick structure, 65x150 feet. Mr. Hayward is also the builder of the elegant new public school house, and one of the large-hearted, enterprising and progressive men of the city; has been in this county since '78, and pays it a high compliment for climate and material resource. Mr. Hayward is a manly and candid bricklayer, and speaks confidently of the building outlook for 1888.

Morley Bros., who recently came here from Eastern Kansas, and have already taken high position among the leading wood working contractors and builders, are very confident of an active building season for 1888, and are building extensive shops in preparation for the new work in prospect. They are prime mechanics and successful jobbers; work a strong force of men; are well up in the best arts of modern building mechanics, and are much pleased with the country.

Other branches of business are represented by strong, capable men, many of whom I should be

house decided strength in the prosecution of legitimate banking. The Ness County Bank is headquarters for the stockmen of the county and is practically a stockman's exchange, carrying full lists of the marketable live stock for sale in this region. Mr. Merrill belongs to the pioneers of '78 and has made the bulk of his property in this county.

The Bank of Ness City was opened on the same day as the Ness County Bank—July 1st, 1885—by Borthwick Brothers; is one of the strong, conservative and growing houses of Western Kansas and enjoys deservedly high standing in banking and business circles. Its proprietors and managers were trained to banking in northeastern Iowa and came here in the spring of '85 with ample means for the conduct of a safe and profitable business, and from the date of their formal opening have steadily grown in favor with the business public of the city and county. They have made money by the same ways of legitimate banking and fortunate investments; are accounted able, safe and sagacious financiers, whose sound views of business and finance give value to their opinions in this community; are gentlemen of

cent. of its capital; its enviable credit in the banking and business circles of the country, and its popularity within the range of its own business bailiwick are largely due to the rare managerial gifts of Mr. Clarkson whose early and thorough training in the principles and usages of banking, and years of later experience as cashier of the State Bank of Kansas at Sabetha, eminently qualify him for the work in hand. He is a born financier, whose decision of character, quick perception, ready tact, clear insight and strong business sense, give him easy command of the details of banking and make him an invaluable manager. Mr. Clarkson has the good fortune of an able and capable assistant in Roy Thompson, who served Nemaha County for several terms with marked ability, as register of deeds, and has few equals as a clerical worker. These two gentlemen own a controlling interest in the bank, and are thoroughly identified with the best interests of the city. Mr. Clarkson is a member, and the financial man, of the city school board, and Mr. Thompson a member of the city council. Both are delighted with Ness City and County and are held in high esteem by a good-sized army of friends and patrons of the State Bank.

The First National Bank of Ness City, organized in June, 1886, with a cash capital of \$500,000, is a strong concern, and has enviable standing among the solid banking institutions of Kansas. Hon. J. W. Rush, president of the First National Bank of Larned and State Senator from this district, is president, and Chas. L. Rogers, cashier and manager. Mr. Rush is well and widely known as one of the most successful financiers and business men of Western Kansas. Of Mr. Rogers it is but just to say that his management of this institution has proven him a capable, careful, successful and popular business manager, whose genial, social nature, ready and accurate judgment of men, clear views of business and finance and prime working gifts, have given the First National a strong hold on this business public. The new National Bank building is one of the finest in the city, and its offices among the most convenient and elegantly appointed in the western country. The First National has a large and rapidly growing patronage, and a most promising future.

The entire banking interests of the city are in the hands of young and progressive men, whose high business ideals, unbroken vigor of mind and body, sterling manhood and splendid working ability, give promise of a fair financial future for themselves and the business city of their adoption. The impressions of the writer as reflected in the foregoing notes upon the

FINANCIAL PROSPERITY

and solvency of the banking and commercial interests of Ness City are shared by other and possibly more impartial visitors. Mr. Fred. B. Strode, who has recently made a tour of Western Kansas, in the interest of Bradstreet's Commercial Agency, said to a friend of the writer that he had nowhere found within this division of the State a town whose business men were so well fortified, or taking so good care of their credit as those of Ness City. The

HOTEL FACILITIES

of this bright young city, which for years was thought of as a comfortable hostelry, now among the very best in the western country.

THE CALHOUN HOTEL

recently built and furnished by Ross Calhoun at a cost of \$16,000, is a handsome testimonial to the good taste and boundless enterprise of that public-spirited gentleman. As shown by our artist, it is a beautiful specimen of hotel architecture, whose fine style, superior finish and elegant furnishings are a splendid complement to the builder and the city. It is admirably planned, and perfectly heated by a superior hot-air heating plant; has not a single dark or dingy corner, and from base to attic is aglow with light and warmth. The ample office and dining-room, elegantly furnished parlors and sleeping rooms, spacious and airy halls and corridors, fine table service and delightful cuisine, give this superb new hostelry great favor with the citizens and traveling public. Mr. James T. Calhoun, the proprietor, and his estimable family, are evidently at ease in hotel management, and dispense a gracious, cordial, home-like hospitality, that gives to the Calhoun House the cheerful and grateful social influence of a well-ordered home. Mr. Calhoun is an old-timer here, and one of those cordial, broad-breasted, genial, sociable, manly men, who manage to dispense a deal of social sunshine. The Calhoun has water-works of its own, bringing the clear waters of Sunset Lake to every portion of the house and grounds, and looks out upon a pretty park, whose well-shaded walks and drives and rustic lounging places, will soon enough form one of its chief attractions.

THE LE GRAND HOTEL

was built in the early summer of '77 by Mr. Harwood and christened the "Harwood" in honor of its builder. It had to be before, so on the order of Mr. Harwood's management, and on the 1st of July passed into the hands of Geo. F. Webster, an old and successful hotel man who did a fine business to a No. 1 patronage for three

months when it went into other hands. Mr. Webster is a level-headed New Yorker who has the gift of money-making and has been fortunate in all his business ventures here. He likes Ness City and County, and is a capital landlord and one of the most sagacious business men I have found in the county. The Le Grand which was a large and hurriedly built house, planned and

Coronet Band, which is made up of the bright, brainy, spirited, young men of the town, is one of the best in Western Kansas.

REAL ESTATE

is firmer here than in most Kansas towns, and for the last twenty months has been a capital commodity both to buyer and seller. Fortunes have



DEVIL'S ISLAND—THE SUBURBAN HOME AND HOG RANCH OF A. T. DANN AND D. J. STROUB—NESS CITY.

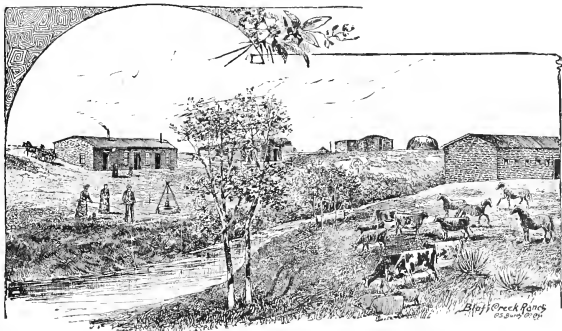
completed to fill a demand for more, better and immediate hotel facilities, is now a thing of history having recently been destroyed by fire, but we give it a place among our illustrations to keep its brief and eventful history green in the memory of its patrons.

The New Arlington House, a handsome new structure lately built by Steele & Forester, will be opened to the traveling public before the close of the year, and will greatly increase the hotel

been made within the last year, in handling city realty and other

FORTUNES WILL BE MADE

the coming year from the same fruitful source. Last year speculative transactions nearly all turned on city property, to the general neglect of farm and grazing lands. The coming year will witness an unusual demand for deeded lands, homestead, pre-emption and timber claim relin-



C. S. MITCHELL'S BLUFF CREEK RANCH (ALL SOD BUILDINGS) 9 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

facilities of the city. There are several other hotels, all of which have a good patronage.

THE LEADING FRATERNITIES

are well represented in Ness City, the Masonic, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Labor, Grand Army, Ladies Relief Corps, Sons of Veterans, and other orders, have strong and flourishing local organizations. The Ness City

quishments, well improved farms and good stock ranches. Eastern men are already looking the country over for themselves and friends, and the year 1888 will bring a handsome advance to all classes of country property. In all good growing towns, like Ness City, there will be renewed activity and a strong advance in real estate. No portion of Kansas presents a more inviting field to the investor than Ness City and County. It is

moreover, a splendid field for the local

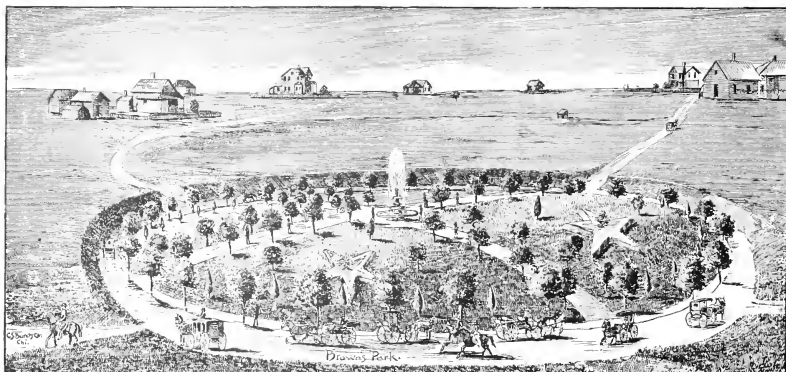
REAL ESTATE MEN

who have the enterprise, ability and character to make the most of the situation. Indeed, I do not remember, in all my Western rambles, a group of more thoroughly responsible, manly and reliable real estate operators than those of Ness City.

Among the leading real estate firms of the city,

those and many fine new homes, and is being rapidly sold to home-builders of the better class. These gentlemen are also largely interested in other valuable city property, and have a large number of farms and ranches, including several thousand acres in their own right, for sale at current prices and on easy terms. They quote lands at \$5 to \$15 per acre, according to location and improvements, and can furnish them in tracts of

pleased to confer or correspond with parties desiring settlement in this region. Mr. Gilmore Kinney of this firm, is a live, driving, ambitious, intelligent New Yorker, who has been a long time in the West, and came here with the early settlers of '78. He owns a splendid 3,000 acre river and valley ranch; is one of the ranking men of the county, and holds the country in high esteem. John F. Wood, the junior member of



BROWN'S PARK, NESS CITY. NOW IN PROCESS OF IMPROVEMENT BY J. W. BROWN

I am pleased to mention Messrs. Kinney & Wood, the owners of

KENWOOD ADDITION

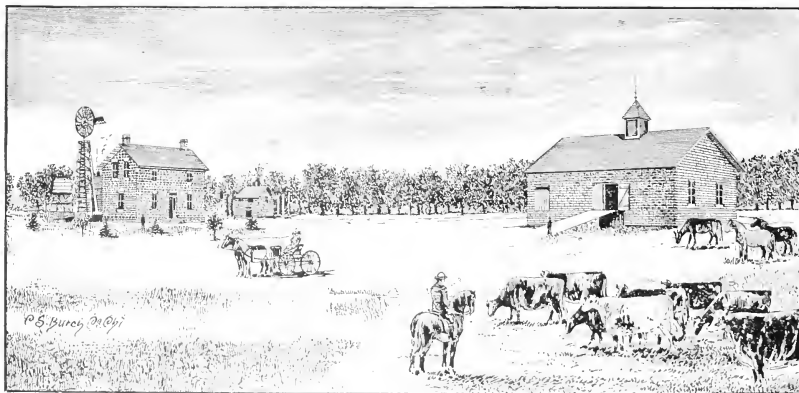
to Ness City. This handsome property covers 240 acres, of which 200 acres are finely platted, and the streets and avenues improved with hundreds of shade trees, until the addition bears the semblance of a beautiful park. It lies on the east of the business city, embraces the new High School

from 40 to 3,000 acres. They have grain farms, dairy farms, stock ranches, school lands, Government claims, city lots and improved city property for sale or exchange for Eastern property, and give special attention to the payment of taxes and investments for non-residents.

Messrs. Kinney & Wood are old-timers here, know the country like a book, are strong, earnest, influential and public-spirited men, and capital workers for the city and county, and will be

the firm, is an able lawyer; the founder of the Ness City *Times* and the owner of some of the finest properties in the city. He hails from the Keystone State; came to Ness City in '79, with less than \$200; has made a handsome property; is a brave, strong, positive, influential man, and swears by Ness City and County.

Smith & Brinton are one of the strong ranking real estate firms of the city, whose books and bulletins embrace scores of grain and stock farms.



STOCK RANCH ON THE WALNUT, SEVEN MILES SOUTHEAST OF NESS CITY

ranches, deed claims, school lands, homesteads, tree claims and every species of town property which they have on the market at current prices, and all sorts of terms of payment

which a good number of pretty residences have already been built. They are also largely interested in valuable business properties and other "inside" realty, have upwards of 2,000 acres of

and real estate men on the ground, and settled hundreds of good families in the county. Mr. Smith owns a fine 100 acre suburban farm; hails from the beautiful land of the lakes in Western



HOME AND STOCK FARM OF N. H. STIDGER, ON THE WALNUT, ADJOINING NESS CITY.

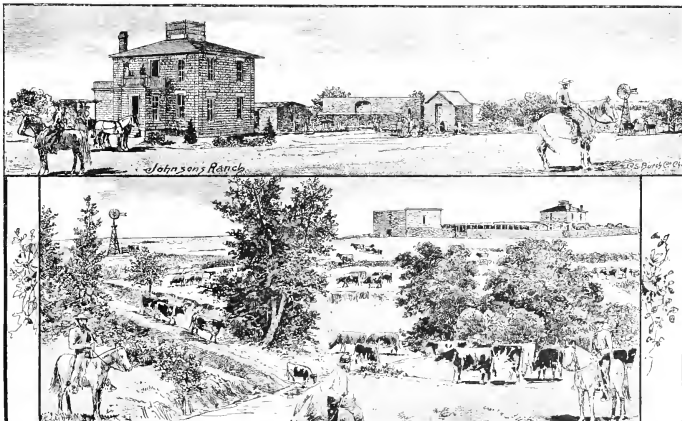
to suit the purchaser. They are also the owners of

NORTH CITY ADDITION

to Ness City, a beautiful quarter section of land lying on the north and east of the city, and on

farm lands in their own right, and are among the ablest and most successful realty brokers in this region. Mr. G. H. Smith came to Ness City in '78, and built his sed cabin "Emigrants' Home," when there was but one building on the town sight. He was one of the earliest land locators

New York; has always been a live, earnest, influential worker for Ness City and is a man of quick, warm impulse, fine executive traits and great public spirit, and withal, a strong advocate of Ness County. He has grown rich in real estate, is a director of the State Bank and one of the



JOHNSON'S RANCH—THE HOME AND STOCK FARM OF HENRY P. JOHNSON, ON WALNUT RIVER, EIGHT MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

strongest men in the city. Mr. Binney Brinton, of this firm came here in 1881 for the improvement of his health, and besides a fine 1800 acre stock ranch, has made other fortunate investments, and is one of the ablest young men of the county. He hails from Philadelphia; is a man of fine judgment, and liberal knowledge of the world, and has a high opinion of this country.

Ross Calhoun, already known to the reader, as the founder of Ness City, its pioneer merchant, president of the State Bank and a member of the city school board, besides valuable business property and other realty within the original town site, has platted

CALHOUN'S FIRST AND SECOND ADDITIONS,

lying immediately on the south of the old town site, and covering many valuable improvements, among them the New Calhoun House. A good portion of these fine properties are on the market for business and residence purposes, and are among the most valuable and eligible in the city. Among the many good projects of this gentleman for the advancement of Ness City, next to his magnificent gift of land for school purposes and the building of the Calhoun House, none are more worthy of emulation than the platting and improvement of his

LINCOLN PARK,

a beautiful block of ground in front of the Calhoun House, which, he has already planted with shade trees, and the further embellishment of which involves walks, drives, fountains, rustic seats, statuary, choice plants, and every accomplishment of a model park; all the more to be commended because it will soon enough be in the heart of the city and an object of daily pride and pleasure to the public.

Sheaffer & Raudabaugh are one of the foremost land firms in the city, and have for sale a good list of farms, ranches, school lands and undeeded claims at current prices. They are also largely interested in city properties, among which is

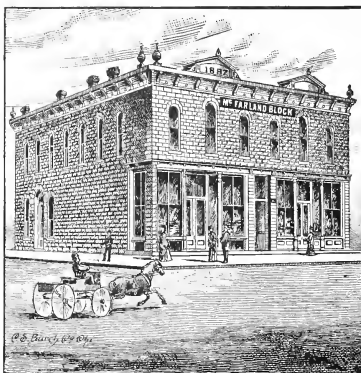
SHEAFFER & RAUDA BAUGH'S ADDITION
embracing forty acres in the south part of the city, in the neighborhood of the Walnut River. These gentlemen are also giving special attention to abstracts, and investments and tax-paying for non-residents, and rank with the solid, reputable, influential men of the city.

Mr. Sheaffer is a Pennsylvanian and an old-timer here. Mr. Raudabaugh came in '84 from Ohio. Both are strong, enthusiastic workers for the city, and share the common faith in a grand future for the country. Mr. Raudabaugh is the fortunate owner of

RAUDA BAUGH'S ADDITION,
a valuable property lying on the north side of the city and part of a fine 160 acre tract owned by that gentleman. Both are largely interested in suburban property and farm lands, have been fortunate in their Ness County investments, make a specialty of buying and selling lands on commission, and invite correspondence concerning this region.

Miner Bros. have a fine list of city and country properties for sale, embracing farms, ranches, wild lands, school lands, undeeded claims, improved and unimproved city property, and give special attention to investments for non-residents, tax-paying, the partitioning of titles, and other features of real estate business. They are careful,

accurate and accomplished business men, of prime intelligence and sterling character, and are among the strong, inspiring, successful workers for the city and county. Their offices in the New Na-



R. J. MCFARLAND'S BLOCK, NESS CITY.

tional Bank building are models of elegance and convenience and they are among the most accomplished clerical workers and business men I have found in the West. Mr. W. D. Miner is mayor of the city, has a fine home and other investments here, and feels a generous pride in its ad-

ministration. They were trained to the best business methods and usages in the great banking and loan establishment of L. E. Darrow in Chicago. Intelligent and courteous gentlemen and hold a strong position in this community.

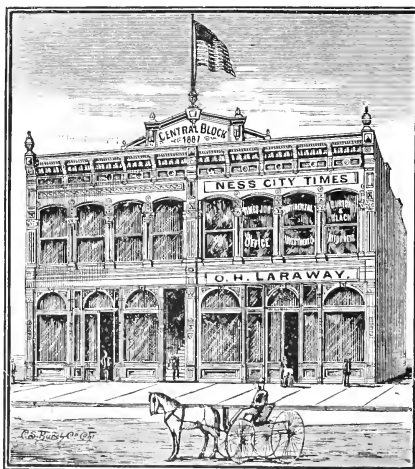
Wetherbee & Morgan are a strong commanding real estate firm and the largest land-holders in the county, having 8,000 acres of good farm lands in their own right. They are handling all classes of country and city realty, are well interested in town property; own a large amount of land in other portions of Kansas, and, as their investments indicate, have great confidence in the future of this region. Mr. W. B. Wetherbee of this firm is a Massachusetts man and Col. A. T. Morgan from Wisconsin. Both are cultivated, genial and courteous gentlemen and clear-sighted men of the world, whose good opinions of Ness County are all the more quotable because they are familiar with all portions of the country and have complimented this region by permanent investments and location here. Col. Morgan was an attorney in the Wisconsin Legislature, was formerly in the U. S. Pension service and a senator in the Mississippi Legislature. Mr. Wetherbee has lately built one of the most elegant homes in Western Kansas, and is one of the best business men I remember in the Sunflower State. The firm is strong in character and business capacity and will cheerfully answer correspondence relating to this country.

Mr. J. L. Green, one of the squarest and manliest Duckees in the western country, has been handling real estate here for a year and a half and likes the country much better than his native state. He has some fine farms, ranches, claims and town properties for sale, looks after investments for eastern people and is a capable and reliable worker in his chosen line.

Mr. Green has made a big list of warm friends in Ness County, is here to stay, and will gladly give further information concerning the county. He is a man of fine business sense, as steady and reliable as the tides, and pronounces this a capital country for enterprising young men.

Capt. W. A. Ogden, successor to the late real estate firm of Herman & Ogden, has a good number of farms, ranches, claims and city properties for sale on good terms, and owns a third interest in the new town of Ogdensburg, which was named in his honor. He also owns a valuable stock ranch; has recently completed one of the finest homes in Western Kansas and is one of the liveliest land men in the county. Capt. Ogden came here from Rochester, New York in '79, has served the public with credit one term as county treasurer, is a quick, earnest, enthusiastic and capable business man and pays Ness County a high compliment.

Dowlin & Morrow, both prime Iowa men, who came here last Spring from Eastern Kansas, are building up a large business in real estate and have for sale a fine lot of farms, ranches, claims and town property. They make abstracts, perfect titles, pay taxes and make investments for non-residents; are young gentlemen of capital business habits and the solid girls are delighted with the outlook for Ness County and have a big list of warm friends. These gentlemen quote deeded lands at \$700 to \$1,500 per quarter section, and undeeded claims all the way from \$300 to \$1,000.



LARAWAY BLOCK AND NESS CITY TIMES OFFICE, NESS CITY.

vancement. Mr. Fay Moore brings to the work in hand years of strong training in his clerical service of the Government at Washington. Both

Frank L. Miller & Co. are driving a good business in general real estate, their books covering a large list of farms, stock ranches, homesteads, pre-emption and timber claims, school lands and town properties. They are active, earnest, thoroughly reliable and accomplished dealers, and will be pleased to correspond with parties meditating settlement or investment in Ness County. Mr. Miller came here from Indianapolis in '86, and is

good lands for sale on seven years time and have lately made a good number of sales to eastern parties. Mr. W. D. Napier has been in Kansas ever since the war, and believes Ness one of the best counties in the state. He is a quick, energetic, thoroughgoing executive and reliable man whose opinions of the country are all the more valuable because he has been twenty years a Kansas farmer. Capt. Bonham is a cautious,

are already improved with many fine homes, he has a natural mound covering several acres and encircled with a pretty ravine. He has devoted this mound to public uses and it will henceforth be known as

BROWN'S PARK.

The ravine is a natural circular roadway, and will be turned into an attractive carriage road.



RESIDENCE OF W. B. WETTERBEE, NESS CITY.

strong in his admiration for the country. Mr. A. F. Kirberg the junior member of the firm, is an old timer here, having come in '78, for the improvement of his health. He is a born trader, owns some valuable farms and town property and pronounces Ness County the healthiest and best country of his knowledge.

Napier & Bonham, the former an old Kansan and the latter recently from Iowa, have a large list of lands of every description, both in this county and all over Kansas. They quote Ness County lands at \$4 to \$12 per acre; have some

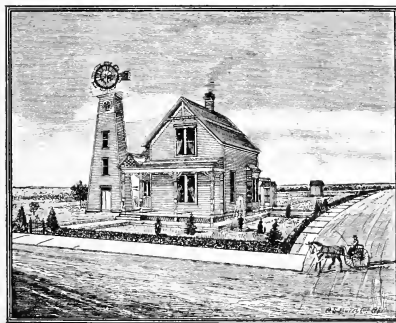
conservative, deliberate man of excellent judgment and fully endorses the opinions of his partner. The firm is a strong one and solicits correspondence from parties desiring further knowledge of the country.

Mr. J. W. Brown, the fortunate owner of

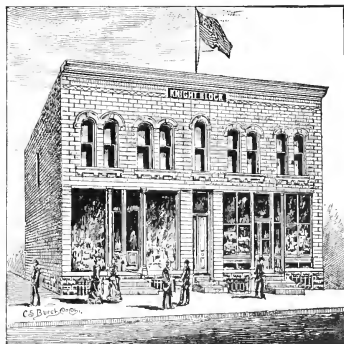
BROWN'S ADDITIONS

to Ness City, has in the 160 acre tract on which his first and second additions are laid, in the northwestern division of the city, a handsome property. In the very heart of these plats, which

Mr. Brown has begun the improvement of this park, and will ornament it with trees, shrubs, plants and blooms, walks, rustic seats and fountains, until he has transformed it into one of the most beautiful and delightful public resorts of the city. It will not only lend new value to his surrounding property, which is rapidly selling at good figures, but be of inestimable value to the whole city. Mr. Brown, who has been city postmaster since the Fall of '85, has about 1000 acres of farm land in this region, and is altogether delighted with the country. He came in '78, from



HOME OF J. D. CHILDS, NESS CITY.

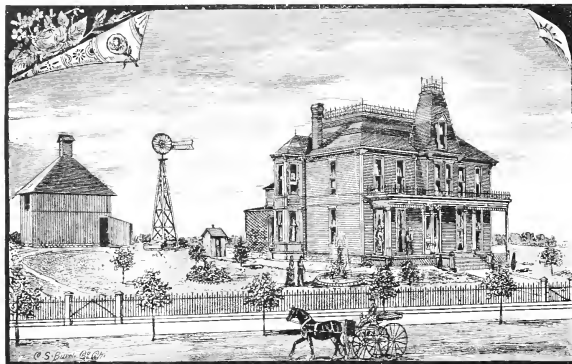


KIGHT'S BLOCK, NESS CITY.

Indiana, with little means, and has made a fine property against many serious drawbacks, not the least of which has been the rearing of a large family of motherless children. Mr. Brown is a man of prime intelligence, generous impulse and decided public spirit; takes great pride in the advancement of the city and county, and firmly believes in a splendid future for this country.

future for the country of their adoption. The remarkable growth of the towns in population, trade and substantial buildings too, is one of the best evidences of a wealthy and thrifty tributary country. Every advanced movement in local development, whether in town or country, is predicted upon

UNWAVERING CONFIDENCE



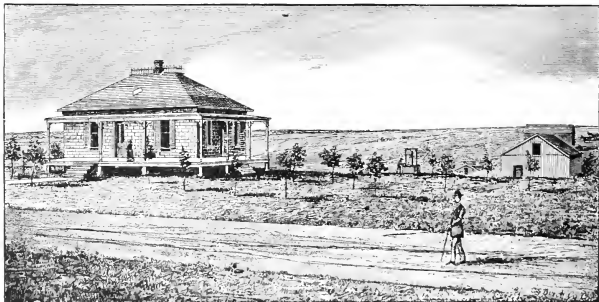
HOME OF CAPT. W. A. OGDEN, NESS CITY.

Messrs. McCartney & Basick represent the Western Investment Co., a syndicate of Illinois and Ness City men, who have platted a fine addition on the west side of the city. These gentlemen, who recently came here from Illinois, are a capital acquisition to the real estate forces of Ness City, and have already a fine lot of city and country properties for sale on liberal terms. Mr. Busick is the trading man of the firm, and a live, genial, courteous and most capable man he is. General McCartney, the senior of the firm, is a lawyer of more than local fame, and a gentleman whose mental and moral worth, candor and dignity of character have given him a strong position in this new land of his adoption. Both are greatly pleased with the country, hail from Illinois, and are evidently here to stay. There are other men more or less engaged in the real estate business, and men of excellent standing too; but I shall do no violence to the truth when I affirm that for fair dealing, sterling business character and capabilities, and honest purpose to aid in the development of the city and county of their adoption, the men and firms named in this connection will bear comparison with the land men of any town between the Missouri River and the Golden Gate.

THE LOAN MEN

of Ness City have a broad, rich field for the prosecution of their work, and occupy it with the confidence, courage and good judgment, begotten of a consciousness that the wealth of its agricultural resource, the enterprise of its people, and the rapidity of its material development, furnish ample protection to themselves and the investments of their eastern friends, who furnish a large per cent. of the capital for local real estate loans. If there is anywhere in Western Kansas a region that affords an unquestioned basis of unimpeded growing security to real estate loans, it is Ness County, whose farmers are generally men of character, enterprise, thrift and strong local attachments, and have confidence in a prosperous

in the essential wealth of the county, and its certain and rapid advancement to a proud position among the rich and thrifty counties of the State, and after a dozen years of deliberate travel and observation in the West, if the writer were questioned as to his preference for any particular region of country, with reference to its natural wealth and agricultural outcome, he would not hesitatingly point to Ness County. Fortunately



HOME OF W. A. RAUBAUGH, NESS CITY.

for this class of investments, most of the local loan agents and brokers have taken a conservative view of the situation, and made their loans largely with reference to the quality, location and commercial value of the land and the character and capacity of the borrowers.

Among the more able and successful agencies for this line of work, I am pleased to name the Ness County Bank, whose real estate loans have been made with exceptional care and circumspection, under the immediate supervision of Mr. N.

C. Merrill, its president and manager. Mr. Merrill is an old resident of the county, whose personal knowledge of the country and the borrowers give him rare opportunities for choice of such properties and men as will best fortify and lend value to his securities, all of which have found ready sale through Mr. A. E. Alvord, the eastern manager and financial agent of the bank in Boston. It has been the settled policy and practice of Mr. Merrill, in making his real estate loans, *first*, to look well to the quality and title of the land; *second*, to loan money to none but thrifty and honorable men, and *third*, to make minimum instead of maximum loans, so that the security would be equal to three times the amount of the loans, and have *merit* as well as commercial value. He personally inspects all the premises upon which loans are made, and has no hesitation in giving the guarantee of his bank to all the securities placed outside of the county. The sale of the securities does not in any sense abate Mr. Merrill's interest in the loans, for his bank is responsible for the payment of both interest and principal, and a careful oversight is given every loan until final payment is made. His accurate knowledge of the borrowing public, familiarity with the county and land titles, and unquestioned financial and managerial ability, give Mr. Merrill easy command of his field of operations, and he is carrying the work up to large proportions and a most satisfactory issue. The Ness County Bank is the official depository of the county, and has greatly popularized its management by its timely and judicious aid to the builders of many of the finer brick and stone structures of Ness City.

Messrs. Smith & Brinton, whose real estate loans cover some of the best lands in the county, and whose opinions are worthy of the highest respect in land and loan matters, believe that Ness County is a perfectly safe field for judicious loans upon real estate.

Borthwick Brothers, the careful and conservative owners and managers of the Bank of Ness City, have made a good many real estate loans, thereby giving substantial assistance both to farm enterprise and the building of some fine struc-

tures in the city, and express the conviction that the better of Ness County real estate loans are among the best in the western country. Their recognized financial and business ability, the unqualified success of all their business enterprises, and their probity of character, give special value to their opinions in this direction.

Miner Bros. of the Ness County Land and Loan Company, have had large experience in farm loans in this and the neighboring counties, and with the highest satisfaction to themselves and

the purchasers of their securities, and assure me that they consider Ness County an especially safe field for real estate loans. They are careful, candid men, whose opinions are highly esteemed in this community.

Mr. J. L. Green, who has recently made a good many loans upon farms and some of the more substantial business blocks of the city, and whose judgment has been highly commended by visiting investors, tells me that they are all profoundly impressed with the magnitude of local resource and the progress of the city and county.

Mr. Napier, of the well known real estate and loan firm of Napier & Bonham, who has had large experience in Kansas, and is abundantly competent to judge of the loan business, with which he has had much to do, says there is no doubt of the ample security of all judicious realty loans in such a country as this.

Mr. W. B. Wetherbee, of the well known and wealthy real estate and loan firm of Wetherbee & Morgan, who have endorsed their faith in this region by the purchase of thousands of acres of farm land, and whose judgment is highly regarded in business circles, esteems local real estate loans among the most valuable securities on the market.

Sheaffer & Raudabaugh, whose experience in Ness County lands and loans has made them authority in these matters, have no hesitation in saying that judicious farm loans in this country are as safe as bullion.

Messrs. Dowlin & Morrow are making a good number of farm loans in the county, and are of the opinion that the time is near when Ness County farm mortgages will rank with the most popular securities in the market.

Frank L. Miller & Co., who make a specialty of real estate loans, and are in a position to know whereof they affirm, believe that the coming summer will bring a strong and even popular demand for Ness County real estate securities.

Gen. McCartney, of the real estate and loan firm of McCartney & Busick, who are making real estate loans for their eastern friends, and whose opinion has decided weight in this community, as well as in the east, where he is widely known and esteemed, has only good words for Ness County, and does not hesitate to advise and endorse such investments.

Messrs. Burton & Black, proprietors of the Ness City Times, and respectively president and secretary of the Continental Investment Co., regard real estate loans in this county as among the safest securities in the country. These gentlemen have made a good many short time loans on personal security, for their eastern friends, and have not only fairly tested the debt paying temper and ability of the people, but are in position to judge of the relative and essential value of Ness County real estate securities.

Mr. Ross Calhoun, who is accredited with almost phenomenal success as a business man and investor in real estate, says: "The steady, certain and rapid appreciation of Ness County's real estate values, will easily take care of any loans eastern capitalists are likely to place on Ness County realty."

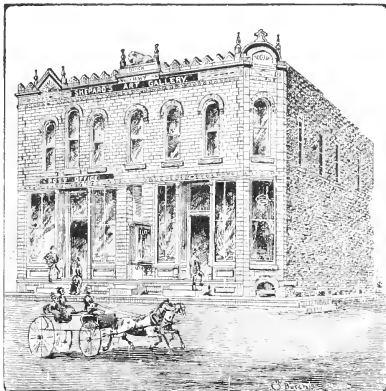
Mr. C. E. Clarkson, the accomplished cashier and manager of the State Bank of Ness City, and as a financier the peer of any young bank manager in Kansas, remarked to the writer that in his judgment "there were no safer or better securities in the world than judicious farm loans in this country," giving substantially the same reasons for his opinion, as those expressed by Mr. Calhoun.

Mr. Lew E. Darrow, the head of the First National Bank of Corns, Iowa, one of the ablest and most sagacious of all the farm loan brokers in the west, and a gentleman whose loans in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, in the last dozen years, cover tens of millions of dollars, says: "there is no doubt about judicious loans on the lands of a new country as good as Ness County, for the growth of the country will abundantly take care of principal and interest, and finally leave the borrower master of the situation."

Mr. Charles L. Rogers, the popular cashier and general manager of the First National Bank, and

an exceptionally able financier, gives cordial endorsement to the views expressed by the above named men and firms.

S. Hill & Co. in this connection. Mr. Hill has made a specialty of abstracts for several years, having been thoroughly trained to this work in



SHIPPED BROS. IRON BLOCK, NESS CITY

Messrs. Van Pelt & Raudabaugh, real estate and loan men of experience and sound judgment, voice the common sentiment in pronouncing Ness County lands a basis of ample security to well considered loans.

I am pleased to quote the opinions of Mr. R.

the regis-ter's office and the leading abstract offices of Kingman, Kansas. He has an exceptionally complete and perfect set of abstracts for Ness County; is one of the most competent abstractors I have found in the western country and is a critical, painstaking and con-



NORTHWICK BROS. BANK OF NESS CITY

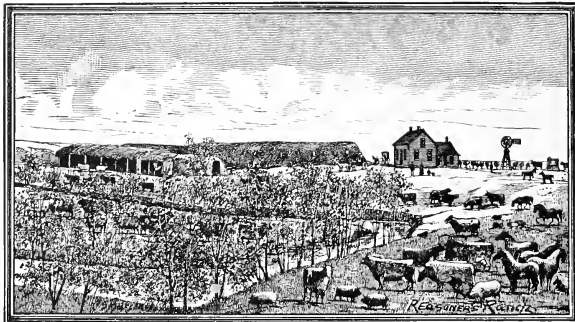
scientious worker in his chosen line. No man in the country is more familiar with Ness County titles or more competent to judge of real estate securities than Mr. Hill, who has repeatedly assured the writer that Ness County afforded as safe and promising a field for realty loans as any region of his knowledge. Mr. Hill hails from Illinois and is one of the brightest and most

the community. Dr. Scott is a West Virginian, has resided here two years and has only good words for the county. Dr. Venard comes from the land of the Hawkeyes, is an old timer in Ness County and esteems it above all other regions.

Dr. P. V. Roudiez, a Frier of man of fine social, mental and professional culture and a late acquisition to the social and professional forces of

republican ticket or led a victorious canvass. He has long lived in Kansas, owns a good amount of city and county property, pays as he goes and swears by Ness County every time. Mr. Smith has recently formed a partnership with Mr. Thomas Berry, late of Missouri.

John F. Wood, one of the oldest attorneys in the county, has been practicing law here since



REASONER'S RANCH—HOME AND STOCK FARM OF B. H. REASONER ON BLUFF CREEK, 9 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

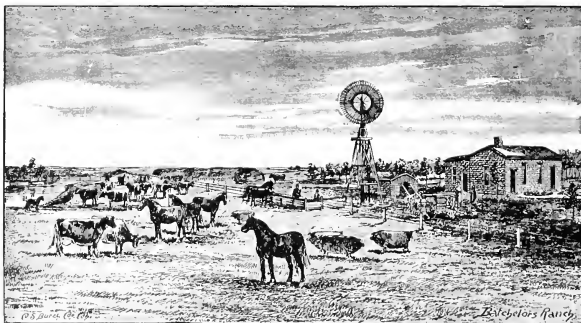
methodical and accurate young business men in the country. Mr. W. M. Hiltchcock, the junior member of this firm and a bright, ready, accurate and intelligent young gentleman, recently from Illinois, fully endorses Mr. Hill's good opinion of Ness County and is himself greatly pleased with the county.

PROFESSIONAL
interests of the city are in capable hands. The medical fraternity is worthily represented by Dr.

the city, worthily wears the honors of well known French and American schools of medicine and surgery, and is delighted with Ness City and surroundings.

THE CITY AND COUNTY BAR
is squarely up to the dignity of its material and commercial surroundings and embraces a good list of men and firms well worthy of membership in a noble and time honored profession. The

the summer of '79 and is one of the ranking lawyers of this region. He is a bright, brainy, positive, independent man, of strong native legal sense; has a valuable practice and is a man of decided strength and influence in the county. Mr. Wood founded and for seven years published and edited the Ness County Times. He has always been a stalwart worker for the city and county of his adoption; is one of the ablest property owners in the county; has made his money on the spot



B. F. BATCHELOR'S RANCH ON BLUFF CREEK, 10 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

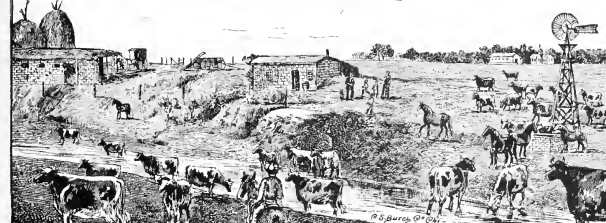
E. B. Greene, an honored alumnus of the Chicago Medical College, a gentleman of high standing in the profession, and a bright genial Pennsylvanian, whose two years residence here has given him a most favorable impression of the city and county. Doctors J. W. Scott and J. S. Venard, of the well known firm of Scott & Venard, who took their honors respectively at the Chicago Medical and Rush Medical Colleges, have capital professional standing and are strong popular men in

oldest resident attorney is Sam. A. Smith, who came to Ness City and hung out his legal shingle in '78 when there was but a single house on the town site. Mr. Smith is a ready, off hand, brusque, confident, natural lawyer of prime ability, has a big list of friends and a large practice among the old timers; takes a strong hand in county politics; is hearty, cordial and generous; a strong worker for the city and county and one of the squarest Kentuckians that ever voted the

and never loses an opportunity to say a good word for the country.

Stidger & Redd is one of the older law firms of the county, having been in practice here since 1879. They are bright, genial, popular, hard-working attorneys of sterling ability, have a large and extended practice and rank with the foremost lawyers of this region. Mr. Geo. S. Redd of this firm, is ex-mayor of the city and ex-county attorney. Both are representative lawkeepers, whose

academic training serves them well and whose good opinions of Ness County, I am pleased to reflect in these pages. They own valuable properties here and are gentlemen of decided public spirit and influence.



Brookbank Stock Farm of J. H. Johnson on Bluff Creek, 9 miles southwest of Ness City.

Little & Ibach are a strong, though comparatively new, law firm here, and evidently have a most promising future. They are both gentlemen of fine literary and legal attainments, close and critical students of books, men and events, and, withal, have the native legal sense and clear discrimination that belong to the make-up of the good lawyer. Mr. E. C. Little took his academic honors at the Kansas State University, made a brilliant record as a student and college tutor, and later as superintendent of the city schools of Abilene and principal of the famous Morris School at Leavenworth, and is a young gentleman of pure literary tastes, high ideals and unusual professional promise. He is city attorney, and has a high opinion of this country. Mr. J. G. Ibach is an alumnus of DePauw University, ex-county attorney for Huntington County, Ind., and a cultivated, genial, self-respecting young lawyer of marked ability and promise. He is a late and valuable acquisition to the local bar, and is delighted with the country.

Gen. James McCartney, late attorney-general of Illinois, and a lawyer of distinguished ability, long and honorable practice and high repute, has recently joined the local bar, and is already well engaged in the practice. He is a gentleman of fine social and intellectual nature, liberal knowledge of the world, liberal views and high character, and his location here is a well appreciated complement to the country, the people and the local bar.

C. M. Van Pelt and G. S. Randabaugh, the former an alumnus of and instructor in the National Normal University of Lebanon, Ohio, a bright and scholarly gentleman, and a fine lawyer of several years experience in Kansas practice, and the latter a graduate of Amity College, Iowa, an estimable gentleman, a good attorney and the ranking city justice, have recently formed a law partnership, and have already public recognition as a strong commanding firm. Both compliment the country in high terms.

Burton & Black, the editors and proprietors of the Ness City *Times*, graduates of Yale University and the Columbia Law School and licentiates of the supreme and federal courts of New York, are also members of the Ness County bar and have the fine social, literary and professional training, not less than the mental and legal gifts and sterling character to honor the profession, if only their time and talents were exclusively given

to its service. Other and absorbing business and professional interests have so far prevented their exclusive devotion to legal work for which they unquestionably have eminent fitness. These young gentlemen respectively represent the good old states of New York and Illinois and are pleased with Ness County.

Mr. Atchison Michell, a graduate of the Albany Law School, a licentiate of the New York Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and for several years in the law practice at Albany, is a late acquisition to the local bar and has the gifts and experience to lend it decided strength. He is

are well and ably represented by men of acknowledged character and capacity. Mayor W. D. Miner, who is already well known to the reader, honors his position as chief executive of the city with zeal, timely and well directed services for its advancement. Messrs. L. E. Knowles, R. B. Linville, Roy A. Thompson and F. C. Borthwick of the city council, are all representative men and discreet city legislators, of clean hands, honest purpose and untiring effort in the interest of good government. City Attorney Little is the right man in the right place. The City Postmaster, Mr. J. W. Brown is one of the most courteous, obliging and painstaking federal officers. I have met in many a day.

The local railway service is admirably represented by Mr. W. G. Glenn, whose four years experience, uniform courtesy, easy self-command, natural business gifts, genial social ways and thorough devotion to official work, have given him decided strength with the Santa Fe Company and great favor with the public. Mr. Glenn is much pleased with Ness City and handles the business of the most important station on the Santa Fe, between Great Bend and the Foot-hills, with the ease, method, deliberation and exceptional good sense of a connoisseur in railway work.

The

COUNTY OFFICIALS

are a fine body of men, whether considered from a clerical, executive or social standpoint. Mr. J. G. Arnold, the county treasurer, whose books and general administration of this responsible position, defy criticism and are the admiration of all parties, is a bright, brainy, accurate and thoroughly executive man, the soul of honor, a capital financier and one of the very few men in the county who can lead a democratic canvass to certain victory. He is an old timer here, but young in years, has recently been triumphantly elected to a second term, is a native Kansan, is steadily growing rich in lands and herds and enviable character, and swears by Ness County.

Geo. D. Barker, recently elected to a second term of the county clerkship, by an appreciative constituency, is a faithful officer, true as the needle to the pole, a prime manly New Yorker and an old timer here, and glories in Ness

new to this country but entertains a high opinion of its resources and promise, and is here to stay.

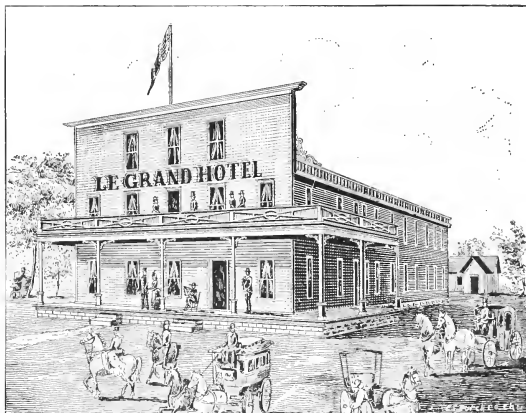
Another recent and valuable acquisition to local legal circles is Mr. J. R. McCleary, late of Steubenville, Ohio, who comes highly recommended as a lawyer and gentleman and will doubtless make his mark in the profession.

The county attorney, Mr. S. W. Porter, of whom I have little personal knowledge, is named to me as a lawyer of good natural ability, liberal knowledge of the practice and unusual promise.

The

OFFICIAL INTERESTS

of the city and county are in capital hands and



LE GRAND HOTEL, NESS CITY

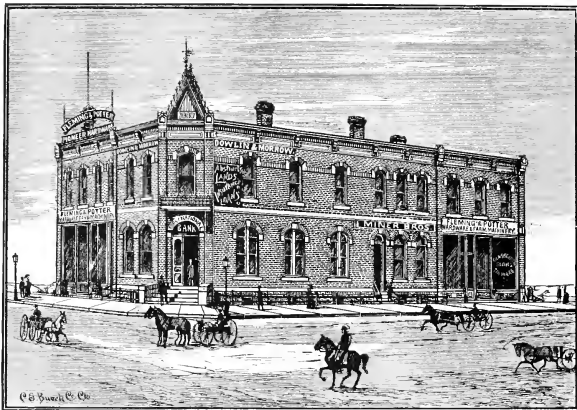
County. Mr. Barber is an old soldier of fine record, and always makes a successful canvass "on his shape."

C. P. Lynn, the popular register of deeds, and the only bachelor county officer who ever served two terms without yielding to the seductive charms of matrimony, is evidently one of the best cler-

cessful men in the county, will make a capital sheriff, or disappoint a host of warm friends. He is good all round, an old settler and a fine citizen, and withal, a warm champion of Ness County.

N. S. Calhoun, of the well known pioneer mercantile firm of Calhoun Brothers, is handling the clerkship of the District Court with note.

an excellent officer and is a genial good fellow, but got on the wrong ticket and lost the race by several laps. He easily won, however, in the matrimonial race, and has settled down philosophically to permanent domestic pleasures at an hundred times discount the empty glory and doubtful gain of politics.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND FLEMING & POTTER'S PIONEER HARDWARE STORE, NESS CITY.

cal men in the county, for he has served the county with high credit, as clerk of the District Court, and has lately been triumphantly elected to a second term of the regisrship. Mr. Lynn is an old timer here, hails from Eastern Kansas, and is a number one man and officer. He has made a fine property here, and likes the county.

J. W. Clouston, the incoming sheriff, ex-commissioner, and one of the strongest and most suc-

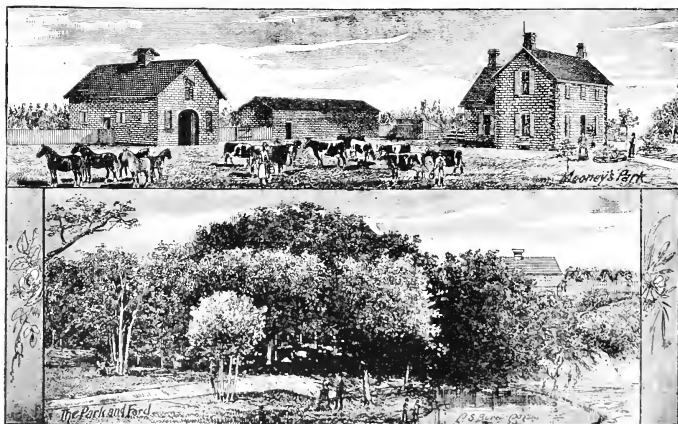
cessful men in the county, is one of the rising representative, progressive young men of the county, which he esteems beyond all other countries.

L. E. Knowles, an efficient member of the city council, and surveyor of the county ever since its organization, is a capital officer and royal man, knows the county like an open book, and never forgets to say good words in its honor.

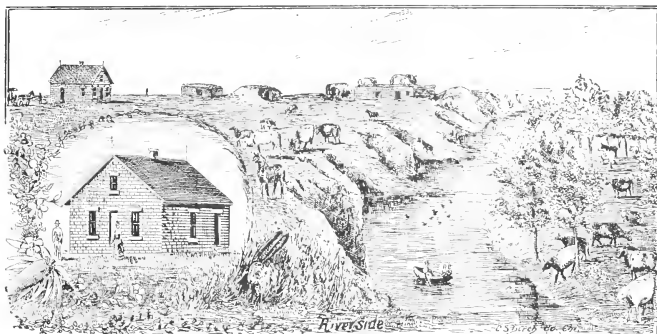
P. A. Rogers, the outgoing sheriff, has made

Dr. P. V. Roadiez, the coroner-elect, swept the political field like a Jamaica hurricane, and though a new man to Ness politics, runs "like the very dickens." The doctor is personally popular and likes the country almost as well as his own sunny France.

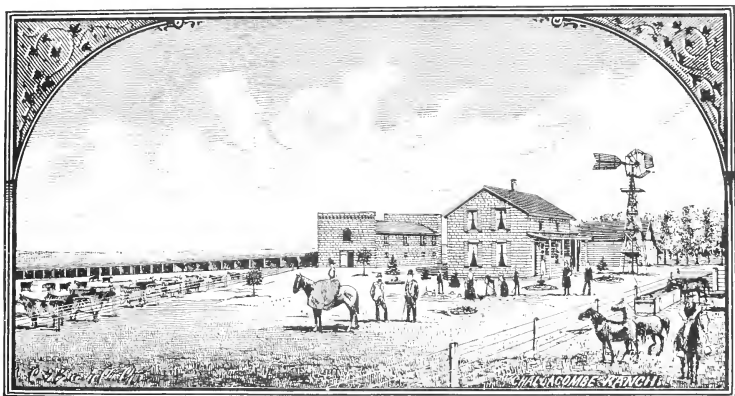
Probate Judge Geo. E. Nicholson, and County Superintendent of Schools J. M. Nuttle, are personally unknown to the writer, but they are



MOONY PARK THE HOME AND DAIRY FARM OF SEYMOUR MOONEY IN THE WALNUT NEAR HAZINE.



RIVERSIDE—THE HOME AND STOCK FARM OF J. L. YINDLAY ON THE PAWNEE, NEAR HAROLD.



CHALLACOMBE RANCH—THE HOME AND STOCK FARM OF WM. B. CHALLACOMBE, NEAR CHALLACOMBE STATION.



HOME AND LIVERY BARN OF A. P. CONNOR, HAROLD.



PIONEER S.O.B. HOTEL AT BEELERVILLE.

highly esteemed by a public that well knows how to appreciate and honor personal merit, and are worthily wearing their official honors.

THE NEWSPAPERS

of the city are among the very best representatives of county journalism in Kansas, and are able, influential and well conducted exponents of the moral, social, material, commercial and political interests of the county. The *Ness City Times*, which is the oldest paper in the county, had its origin in the *Walnut Valley Times*, founded Sept. 20th, 1879, at Clarinda, by N. C. Merrill. It was purchased by John F. Wood, who removed it to Ness City, January 22d, 1880, and christened it the *Ness City Times*. Mr. Wood continued its publication until November, 1886, when it was purchased by its present owners, Messrs. Burton & Black, who also purchased the *Graphic* about the same time, merging it in the *Times*, a name as familiar as a household word to the newspaper fraternity of Kansas, and to a large list of old readers and new, from Ness County to the remotest portions of the country. To say that

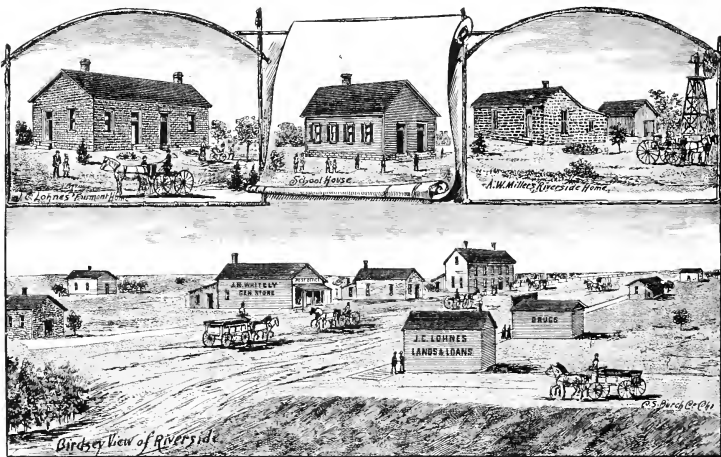
gentlemen, have one of the finest newspaper offices in Western Kansas, and are warmly remembered by the writer for many an hour of genial and professional hospitality.

The *Walnut Valley Sentinel*, founded in May, 1880, by McDowell & Weissel, is a democratic journal of marked ability and is recognized as one of the foremost exponents of that political faith in this division of Kansas. Under the editorship of Mr. D. E. McDowell, it has attained a wide circulation and commanding influence both within and beyond its political balliwick, and its mechanical make-up, which bears the impress of the taste, skill and experience of Mr. R. G. Weissel, is equaled by few journals in Kansas. From early to late, the *Sentinel* has been a strong, enterprising and influential medium for the material advancement of Ness City and County; has a splendid patronage from the Government Land Office of the district; turns out exceptionally fine job work and, in a liberal sense, is one of the most successful of all the new journalistic enterprises in Kansas. Mr. McDowell is an able and versatile editor and business manager, a polit-

ical of Western Kansas. The three journals above named fairly represent

THE INTELLECTUAL STATUS

of a city that for mental and social culture and the higher amenities of a refined and progressive social and intellectual order, is not a whit behind the best towns of this class either east or west. In this bright young city of the plains, practically but two years removed from the condition of a cross roads hamlet, and in every part radiant with social and mental brightness, are more than a score of well trained men and women who worthily wear more or less distinguished honors from well known American Colleges and Universities, among whom I shall be pardoned for naming Mrs. Dr. E. B. Greene, Mrs. Silas W. Porter, Mrs. W. G. Robinson, Mr. J. J. Pearce, Dr. J. W. Scott, Silas W. Porter, R. H. Sayer, L. E. Knowles, G. S. Rauldbaugh, C. M. Van Pelt, Geo. L. Burton, Philo C. Black, E. C. Little, J. G. Itach, Geo. S. Redd, Rev. McCrea, Rev. Findlay, Rev. R. C. Childs and Rev. F. P. Augur. To this list might be added a full score of others



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF RIVERSIDE.

the publishers have made the *Times* an able, faithful, inflexible and influential exponent of Republicanism in Ness County, a strong advocate and conservator of every worthy local enterprise and a model local newspaper, hearing in every part the impress of their candor, courage, editorial ability, mechanical taste and extensive journalistic pride, and that it is recognized as one of the best county journals in Western Kansas, is a compliment to their editorial and managerial ability, which reader pens than mine have many a time recorded. The owners are entitled to a generous pride in the financial success of the *Times*, a fortune that falls to the lot of comparatively few county publishers. The *Times* has a large and growing patronage, and turns out some of the finest job work in the country. Mr. Geo. L. Burton and Philo C. Black, of the *Times* publishing firm, were classmates at Yale and Columbia, and came to Ness City in 1886, after two years of most honorable service as teachers; the former as a member of the faculty of the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute, an academic school of high rank, and the latter as principal of a well known high school in Connecticut. They are cultivated, candid, courteous

ical leader and organizer of marked ability, and is recognized as a strong factor in the democratic forces of the county and district. The publishers of the *Sentinel* hail from Indiana, are courteous, candid, genial and hospitable gentlemen, have capital standing in the community and are well pleased with the country.

The *Ness County View*, founded in November 1884, by Judge J. K. Barnd and edited and published by Barnd & McFarland, is a staunch republican journal of large circulation and acknowledged influence. The publishers are both old settlers in Ness County, both largely interested in valuable business property and other city and country realty, among which are some of the finest stone blocks in the city, and are bright, intellectual, progressive and influential men, who have done their full share for the material prosperity of the city and county. Judge J. K. Barnd served the county for several terms with marked ability as Judge of Probate, and Mr. R. J. McFarland has the honor of having pioneered in Ness County some time in advance of any other white settler. The *View* is a fine specimen of typographical and editorial journalism and holds a prominent position in the newspaper fraternity

made more or less familiar with academic life by one, two or three years of college schooling, besides a good number who hold degrees from well known professional schools, and eastern people who come here with a fancy that only the crudest mental and social conditions obtain, that the men and women of Ness County are of the "Wild West" type, and that they will have an easy task in putting everybody in their shadow will be quite likely to have the conceit effectually taken out of them in about ninety days. Every Eastern visitor expresses a most agreeable surprise with the extent, solidity, thrift, enterprise and promise of Ness City, and in this connection I am pleased to quote the

COMPLIMENTARY OPINIONS

of several gentlemen eminently qualified to judge of the relative merits and advantages of Ness City and County. Judge S. J. Osborn, the presiding Justice of the 23d Judicial district, whose wide knowledge of the west and especially of Kansas, give value to his opinions, remarked to the writer that he considered Ness, "the banner county of Western Kansas."

Col. Emery L. Waller, who commanded the

4th Ohio Infantry in the Mexican war, and held a command in the western army in the late war for the Union, and whose associations with General Grant, Sheridan, Lee and others lend interest to his military life, has recently settled here for the improvement of his broken health and fortune, and pronounces the climate the finest and most healthful of any he has ever known. Col. Waller has led an eventful life, rich in experience of many countries and is a brave, genial, sociable and entertaining gentleman, whose opinions are worthy of the highest regard. He has resided here since '84 and believes in a grand future for this region.

Mr. J. D. Childs, special agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Milwaukee, and a business man of unusual ability and intelligence, whose familiarity with most of the southern and western states give weight and value to his opinions, forecasts for Ness County a most prosperous future. Mr. Childs has recently built a pretty home here and takes a warm working interest in the progress of the city.

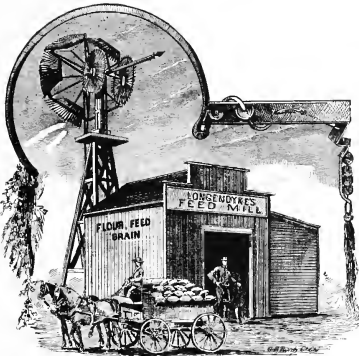
Mr. Jesse Sheets, a wide-awake and thoroughly intelligent Buckeye, whose twenty three years experience as a Kansas teacher, farmer and business man make him a competent judge of the resources and advantages of the country, has "stuck his stake" and planted his root-tree and built a life home here and speaks in glowing terms of the country.

Chas. F. Whitmore, a worthy and widely intelligent son of the old Bay State, whose friends at home and in the New West are as "thick as leaves in Valambrosia," has "done" Western Kansas for several years in the interest of the well known and wealthy mercantile house of A. B. Symms & Co. of Atchison and is pleased to pronounce Ness County one of the best and most promising of all the newer counties in Kansas. He is a clear-sighted, closely discriminating observer, whose accurate knowledge of men and business lend special value to his opinions and has complimented Ness City by making it his headquarters for commercial work in Western Kansas. I am all the more pleased to quote Charley Whitmore, because no commercial man in the state is more widely and popularly known and none worthier of credence than this bright, genial, courteous and kindly-spirited gentleman, whose nature is brimful of bright humor and whose heart is as big as the world of human sympathy.

So, too, I am especially glad to note the good impressions of Mr. Geo. L. Burton, a New Haven gentleman of fine intelligence and ripe judgment, whose late visit of several weeks with his son, Mr. Geo. L. Burton, was a continued and most agreeable surprise. Mr. Burton, who is well known in eastern educational and business circles, assured me that the natural wealth of soil, the beauty of the landscape, the extent and quality of the building stones, the solidity and fine style of many of the business blocks, the enterprise and intelligence of the people were all sources of pleasant surprise to him, and that he turned to his New England home with a feeling that Ness City and County had a bright and prosperous future.

Another visiting gentleman, Mr. F. G. Bray, of Honeyoe, Ontario County, N. Y., who has recently visited a number of localities in Kansas, with a view to the purchase of farms for himself and some thirty of his neighbors in that beautiful "land of lakes," after a careful and thorough investigation of the relative advantages of the several locations visited in Geary and Western Kansas, has decided to locate himself and friends in and around Ness City, and has already selected

a good number of farms and several thousands dollars worth of city property for purchase. Mr. Bray, who is himself a farmer of ample means, and a bright, intelligent, genial man of capital judgment, is so well pleased with the city and county that he has advised his well-to-do friends to very liberal purchases, and will himself invest



G. LONGENDYKE'S FEED MILL, HAROLD.

several thousand dollars here, a movement which will eventuate in the early establishment here of a numerous and wealthy

NEW YORK COLONY.

He represents one of the richest farm districts in America, and is here as the trusted agent and representative of men whose means, farm and business experience, intelligence and high char-

Mr. S. A. Shepard, the accomplished photographic artist of this city, a gentleman whose familiarity with the country, from the Alleghenies to the Pacific, and whose ready and critical judgment is rarely at fault, has settled here permanently and in company with a brother, recently built the handsome Lion Block, and permanently established his art gallery therein. Mr. Shepard is a genuine connoisseur in this delightful line of portraiture, in which he has few equals, and prefers Ness City to any western town of his knowledge. Nor is he at all singular in this preference. Everybody who comes this way likes Ness City, and they who go away carry with them most pleasant impressions of a bright, radiant, advancing town, in which is

NOT A SINGLE SIGN OF DECADENCE, but which from end to end bears the impress of live, rustling, progressive men, and will give no sign of halting, doubting or waiting, till it has compassed

A SPLENDID DESTINY.

As sure as the sunshine and the tides and the rainfall; as sure as the march of empire toward the western ocean; and as certain as the fulfillment of universal hope for a fairer and diviner life to the aching, longing heart of humanity, is the early dawn of the proud day when Ness City shall be the live, glowing and growing central city to a county of 30,000 people. Water works, the electric light, and the Missouri Pacific will all be here the coming summer, and on a little later date, when new industrial forces that will wake the echoes from end to end of this beautiful

With a kindly and regretful good-bye to Ness City and its hospitable people, we—the reader and I—will drive out among the

NEIGHBORING FARMS AND FARMERS

hat are yet to foster Ness City into fair commanding proportions. Among the more attractive suburban farms none are more valuable or noteworthy than

EAST END.

the 160-acre homestead, settled in 1879 by John R. Gardner. It lies at the east end of the city, in full view of the elegant Calhoun House, and is improved with a pretty cottage, a fine orchard, some large and thrifty shade trees, small outbuildings, and some well cultivated fields, and is to-day worth \$15,000. Mr. Gardner recently sold his adjoining tree claim for the handsome sum of \$15,000, and from a penniless homesteader in 1878, is to-day worth double that amount of money. He lives in a new home, and is one of the happiest and most successful homesteaders in the country. Half a mile further east is

DEVIL'S ISLAND.

the home and 12-acre fruit farm and vine breeding place of A. T. Dann and D. J. Stroub. A pretty cottage, some stable, large yard well watered corals, pretty groves, orchards and vineyards, all on the banks of Dry Creek, make up a charming little country place, where these pleasure-loving young business men recreate in a very enjoyable way. Just south of the city limits, on the picturesque banks of the Walnut, is

STIDGER'S RANCH.

the home and 160-acre horse breeding farm of N. L. Stidger, of the well-known law firm of Stidger & Reed. It is all bottom land, superbly watered by half a mile of the clear, winding Walnut River, and improved with a fine stone barn, ample stone sheds and corrals, several miles of stone post-and-rail fence, a wind pond, well and wind mill, garden and young



G. LONGENDYKE'S STORE, HAROLD.

acter will be a splendid acquisition to the social, commercial and agricultural forces of Ness County. Mr. Bray has made a most favorable impression here, and will find for himself and friends a cordial western welcome to this new and growing country.

orchards, and devoted to the breeding and raising of horses, which Mr. Stidger pursues largely for recreation. The owner will build a fine residence in the spring, and make this one of the prettiest, as it is one of the most valuable of all the suburban places near Ness City. Half a mile to the north of the public school house is R. K. Beymer's 160-acre

SUNNYSIDE

home and farm, a pre-emption claim and one of the smoothest and most desirable suburban farms about the city. It is improved with a pretty cottage, barn, well, corn fields and gardens, and is fast being transformed into one of the prettiest and most desirable suburban homes and farms of the locality. It commands a beautiful view of the city, has fifty acres already under plow, and will soon enough be brought under tribute to scores of elegant city homes. Mr. Beymer is a son of my old and valued friend, the late Geo. W. Beymer, of Alton, Iowa, and a son-in-law of

delightful suburban home than he. Two miles northeast of Ness City is the 1,240 acre

GLENWOOD RANCH

of N. C. Merrill, Cabell Hazen and Miss Hazen, a beautiful body of graceful rolling prairie and valley land, drained by Dry Creek and improved with ten miles of stone post and wire fence, a pretty cottage, barn and dairy house, thirty grove, young orchards and fruit yards and extensive sheds for 500 head of cattle. About seventy acres are in cultivation to feed crops and the balance of the estate is devoted to pasture and meadow. The farm is stocked with 200 cattle of which 125 constitute Mr. Merrill's high grade Polled Angus herd, led to two handsome pure bred Angus bulls. The balance of the herd are high grade short horns which are bred to pure short horn sires. The attractive feature of the farm is Mr. Hazen's

GLENWOOD CHEESE DAIRY

which embraces thirty-five cows and other ap

bankers and business men in the country, assures the writer that nothing pays so well in this region as cheese making; that its general adoption would make Ness County one of the wealthiest counties in Kansas; that ten cows in this industry are worth more than \$1,000 worth of farm machinery in general farming; that the dairyman always has ready money, honors his bank paper and grows rich in pocket and soils, while his exclusively grain-growing neighbor is generally in debt and constantly depleting his purse and soils. The Glenwood dairy is an unqualified success and the early emulation of the work so well begun by Messrs. Merrill, Hazen and Mooney, by the farmers of Ness County would very soon make wealth, and comfort and independence for themselves and the county.

JOHNSON'S RANCH,

the 2,040 acre estate of Hon. J. P. Johnson, is one of the finest county properties in Western Kansas. It lies seven miles southwest of Ness City,



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, BEELERVILLE, LOOKING SOUTH.

L. E. Darrow, the wealthy banker and loan broker of Corning, Iowa, in whose office he was trained to the banking and loan business, and is an accomplished money-changer, accountant and clerical worker, and a pleasant gentleman. He has recently been called to the presidency of the Bank of Colby, in Thomas County, Kansas, and had a most promising business future. Adjoining "Sunnyside" on the north, and in full view of the city, is

LONGVIEW

the home and 160 acre stock farm of G. H. Smith, the veteran and pioneer real estate man of Ness City. It is a model farm, improved with a fine cottage and neat stables and will be rapidly embellished with shade trees, young orchards, fences and larger out buildings in keeping with the taste and ample means of the spirited owner. Mr. Smith will stock his farm with well bred horses and cattle and make it a place of pleasant and much needed recreation. He is a man of splendid working gifts, and a hard worker both for himself and the county and no man is better entitled to the pleasures and comforts of a

pointments of a model cheese dairy. Mr. Hazen, who is an old and expert Western Reserve Cheese maker, began cheese making here in 1880 in company with Mr. N. C. Merrill, his son-in-law, and at a time when general agriculture and especially grain growing, was in great doubt through all this western country, these gentlemen found to their great delight that they could make a superior quality of cheese from the native buffalo grass pasture. They began with only eight cows, found a ready sale for their product, gradually increased their stock and soon placed their cheese with the McPherson, Wichita, Lyons and Hutchinson dealers in successful competition with the best "Young America" and "Clover Hill" product of the Western Reserve. It found a quick sale at 12 to 18 cents per pound and at once settled the question of profitable cheese making on the old buffalo range of Western Kansas. Mr. Hazen finds ready sale now for his entire product in Ness City at 15 cents per pound and says cheese making in good hands is by far the most profitable industry that can be pursued in Ness County. Mr. Merrill who is a close observer and one of the most sagacious

on the Walnut River; is all rich valley and bottom land, watered by ten miles of the clear winding Walnut, which is all the way heavily fringed with ash, elm, hackberry and cottonwood timber; and is improved with twenty-five miles of stone post and wire fence, a large and handsome stone residence, large stone barns, stables, sheds and corrals, a dozen living wells, with wind mill, water tanks and admirable water works, supplying the purest living water to all the buildings and feed yards; abounds in fine living springs and natural fish ponds and is stocked with 200 head of high grade short horns, which are bred to pure sires, and with fifty horses, of which thirty are brood mares which the owner is breeding to his own Norman-Morgan Stallions. Mr. Johnson also breeds and feeds a good number of superior Berkshire-Poland pigs. He keeps 200 acres in corn to crop, oats, millet and sorghum and the rest of this noble estate in pasture and meadow. The buildings alone cost \$5,000. Mr. Johnson came here in 1874 from Rush County, with little means, has made his entire property in the cattle business and is probably worth to-day \$50,000. He is a natural stockman and used to

run from 800 to 1000 cattle on this range. He is the first settler in the township which is named in his honor; is the present representative of Ness County in the State Legislature where he has twice served an appreciative constituency with high credit, and is a well-to-do, deliberate, candid, manly man of unimpeachable honor, sterling credit and character and is one of the very few democrats in the county who can easily and successfully lead a political canvass. He has a good sized army of warm friends; is delighted with the country; has always been a public spirited and influential worker for the county and lives a most agreeable home life with an estimable family who unite with him in dispensing a generous and cordial hospitality. Mr. Johnson is now seventy six years old, and would like to sell this fine estate and retire from active business life. He is a native of Illinois, and belongs to the race of Nature's noblemen. Half a mile further west, on Bluff Creek, is the 280 acre

BROOKBANK

stock farm and home of Jas. H. Johnson, a beautiful body of river and creek bottom land lying at the confluence of Walnut River and Bluff Creek. Naturally enough, Mr. Johnson, who is a son of Hon. J. P. Johnson, is a stockman, and devotes his farm to cattle and horses of which he now keeps thirty of the former and twenty of the latter. He keeps a few fine pigs and a nice yard of poultry, has good stone post and wire fence, a cozy stone cottage, ample sod sheds and stables; keeps fifty acres in feed crops; has a mile of river and creek line and some fine native timber; is a live, public spirited and manly young farmer and is well pleased with the country. Adjoining "Brookbank" on the west, is Mr. C. S. Mitchell's

BLUFF CREEK RANCH.

a fine 160 acre stock farm, all valley land, well watered by the creek and living wells, and improved with stone posts and wire fences, a sod house, sod barn, sod stables, poultry house, well sheltered corral, young orchard, eighty acres in cultivation to wheat, corn, miller, rice, corn, etc. Mr. Mitchell keeps a few good horses, forty high grade cattle, a few choice pigs and some poultry, is a good farmer, hails from the land of the Buckeyes, is a careful, intelligent and thrifty man, has lived here since 1892 and speaks in high terms of the country. The next farm higher up the creek, is

REASONER'S RANCH,

a choice 240 acre place, watered by the creek and improved with a pretty frame cottage, large sod stables and sheds, thrifty young orchards, a well, wind mill and water tank and good stone post and wire fences. It embraces some nice native groves and half a mile of the Walnut River; is all valley and bottom land; has eight miles of fence and sixty acres in feed crops and is stocked with sixty high grade cattle, a few horses, and some model Berkshire pigs. Mr. E. H. Reasoner, the owner of this property, has also a valuable farm in Oregon, has lived in this country since 1873 and made his money here; is one of the careful, thrifty, self-sustaining and enterprising men of the county; pays as he goes and is delighted with the country. Half a mile higher up Bluff Creek, is J. G. Arnold's

PLEASANT VALLEY RANCH,

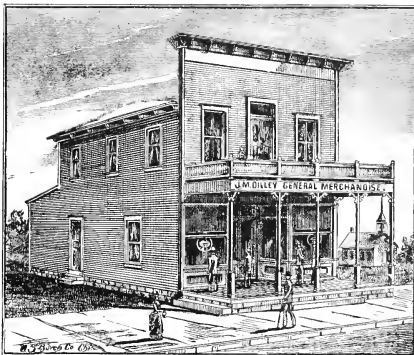
another model 160 acre place, watered by the creek and a living well, and improved with a neat stone cottage, extensive stone stables, sheds and corrals and a wind mill, water tank and water works. This pretty valley farm is a recent purchase and is to be devoted to feeding and mixed farming by Mr. Arnold, who is also the fortunate owner of

ARNOLD'S RANCH,

a fine 1,000 acre tract of rolling prairie and valley land, on Guzzler's Gulch, a dozen miles southwest of Ness City. The ranch is improved with ten miles of stone post and wire fence, is finely watered with one mile of running creek and living springs; has 160 acres in feed crops and is stocked with about 100 high grade cattle, among which are a good number of choice Polled Angus cattle, which are bred to pure sires of the same proud race. The balance of the herd

are high grade short horns which are bred to thoroughbred sires. Mr. Arnold is a believer in mixed farming, with cattle and horses as the chief feature. He keeps a few good horses, gives a keenly practical turn to all his farm and ranch work and will carry forward the work of improvement until he makes this place one of the most valuable properties in the county. Mr. Arnold

and dairy house, ample sod stables and sheds, a young orchard, a well, windmill and fine water-works, and forty acres in cultivation to corn, millet and other feed crops. Mr. Batchelor carries seventy-five high grade cattle, ten horses, and some well-bred pigs; is a thorough and successful farmer, grows good crops, and has made every dollar of this fine property since his settlement



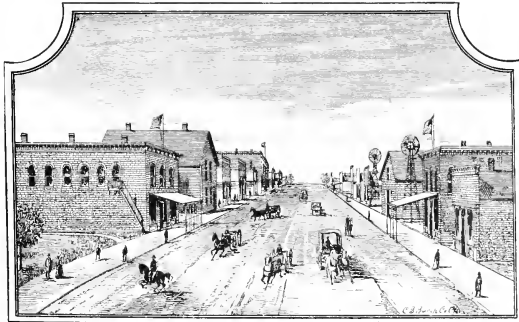
J. M. DILLEY'S STORE, HAROLD.

came here from Doniphan County, Kansas, in the fall of '84 and has been remarkably successful in all his undertakings. He is thoroughly practical and intelligent, an admirable manager and a clear-sighted and honorable man of the world; got his business and academic schooling at Bryant's Business College and the Leavenworth Normal School; is the popular and efficient county treasurer; is in love with this country and has a host of warm working friends and a bright future ahead in further and higher honors.

here in 1874. He came here from Michigan to mend his broken health, is now a strong, happy, contented man, swears by Ness County, and is one of the capable representative young men of the country, whose pleasant home circle is kindly remembered for general hospitality. Eight miles west of Ness City, at Challacombe Station, on the Santa Fe Railway, is

CHALLACOMBE'S RANCH,

a splendid 1,930-acre stock farm, dipping with



STREET SCENE IN HAROLD.

Half a mile above Mr. Arnold's, "Pleasant Valley" ranch, on Bluff Creek at the base of the Southern hills, lies Mr. B. F. Batchelor's

BATCHELOR'S RANCH,

a model tract of 320 acres, all smooth valley and bottoms, improved with six miles of stone post and wire fence, a neat stone cottage, stone cellar

smooth, graceful outline down to the Walnut River. It is admirably watered by living wells, with wind-mills, tanks and water-works, and is improved with a handsome stone house and dairy rooms, a large stone barn, 400 feet of stone sheds, fourteen miles of stone post and wire fence, a model nut-bearing walnut grove and a thrifty young orchard. Mr. Wm. B. Challacombe, the

proprietor, keeps 100 acres in feed crops, and carries 130 head of high grade short-horn and 13 horses. He came here nine years ago from the paying-teller's desk of a prominent Leavenworth bank, and surrounded by a refined, cultivated family, pursues the even tenor of a stockman's life on one of the finest ranches in Ness County. Mr. Challacombe is himself a cultivated and accomplished man of the world, and entertains a most favorable opinion of the country. Seven miles southeast of Ness City is

KINNEY'S RANCH,

a magnificent body of bottom and slope land 3,000 acres in extent. It embraces three miles of the Walnut River and 100 acres of fine native woodland; is admirably watered by the river and living springs and wells; has 200 acres in cultivation to corn, millet, rye, sorghum, and other feed crops, and is further improved with fourteen miles of stone post and wire fence, a large and fine stone residence, minor stone out-houses, stone stables, sheds and corrals, and admirably sheltered and watered feed lots, and is one of the most desirable stock farms in Western Kansas. Mr.

and eighteen miles north of Burdette, and has an enterprising population of 350, with local advantages and a tributary country large and rich enough to easily make a town of 1,500 souls. Among its

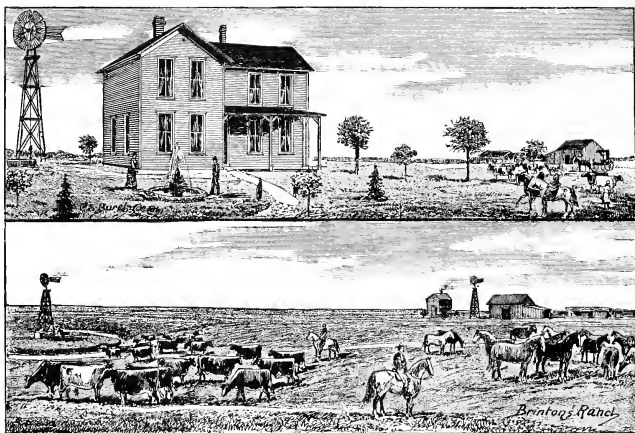
SALIENT FEATURES

are the Bazine Register, a live, prosperous and enterprising journal published by A. H. Morris & Son; a large and fine stone hotel and public hall; a pretty new church and passenger depot; a new bank building; a flourishing post of the Grand Army; some fine stock yards; a charming natural park; a dozen business concerns, and a good showing of pretty homes. It is a strong trading and shipping point, commands one of the largest and richest farm regions in the county, and has made its rather remarkable growth in a single year. Business and residence lots are selling on very liberal terms, and considering the prime advantages and prospects of the town, are remarkably low; superb building stones are quarried within sight of the town, building sand is abundant, and a full dozen of the finer business houses, homes and shops bear testi-

stocks ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000, and his trade reaching close to \$40,000 a year. He is a young man of decided enterprise, has been several years in general trade, hails from New York, and is much pleased with the country. Mr. Bice expended \$7,000 in the construction of this fine block, and is one of the public spirited, earnest, hard working, capable business men of the city.

Dr. W. W. Tichenor, who is one of the early settlers of the county, having come here from Iowa in 1874, is also largely identified with the town, having built a fine home and business house within the last year. He has a large and prosperous trade in drugs, books, stationery, fancy goods and kindred merchandise, and is one of the strong, level-headed, enterprising, successful and public spirited business men of the town. Dr. Tichenor came here largely on account of failing health, and holds Ness County in high esteem.

Mr. T. S. Molesworth, the Santa Fe railway and express agent—since the arrival of the cars in December, 1886, and a most obliging young business man, who has the respect and confidence of the entire community—has recently built a



BRITTON'S RANCH, ON GUEZZER'S GULCH, SIX MILES NORTHWEST OF HAROLD.

Kinney usually keeps about 400 high grade cattle and a few good horses, and is one of the foremost stockmen in the country. He came to Kansas fourteen years ago, from New York, and to Ness County in 1878, and has since been actively engaged in the stock business. Mr. Kinney is a man of dauntless energy, prime executive ability, sterling enterprise and decided public spirit; has been largely identified with the growth and prosperity of the country, and is one of the strong representative, progressive men of Ness County. A dozen miles down the railway and river from Ness City, well towards the east end of the county, is

RAZINE.

the second town in population and commercial importance in Ness County. It was platted in November, 1886, by John E. Farnsworth and the Arkansas Valley Town Co., on Mr. Farnsworth's original homestead—the first farm settled in Ness County—and has

A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION

on the banks of the Walnut River, in one of the fairest portions of the Walnut Valley, twelve miles east of Ness City; twenty-two miles west of Rush Center, fifteen miles south of McCracken,

mony to the elegance of the white and cream and blue limestones taken from the near quarries. Beautiful native groves, with a background of picturesque bluffs and hills on the south; fine reaches of rolling prairie on the north and the broad sweep of the Walnut Valley on the east and west, complete a situation which many an older and larger town might covet. The

RAILWAY FACILITIES

of Bazine, which, since the founding of the town, have been confined to the Great Bend and Denver line of the Santa Fe system, will be greatly improved the coming summer, by the extension of the D. M. & A. branch of the Missouri Pacific from Larned via Bazine and Ness City to a junction with the main line of that road already running into Pueblo. Such a consummation will give Bazine a new boom and very soon give it high rank among the flourishing railway cities of this region. Among the live

REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS MEN

of Bazine, I name with pleasure Mr. G. D. Bice, who built the first building on the town site, the large Mitchell House and Bice Block, in October, 1886. Mr. Bice has ever since conducted a large general merchandise trade in this building, his

pretty cottage here, and is pleased to say a great many good words for the town and country. Mr. Molesworth came here from Iowa, and has enjoyed much better health in this country. Mr. E. A. Sayre, the manager of the Badger Lumber Company at this point, an old newspaper man and a gentleman of fine business ability, joins his neighbors in unstinted praise of Bazine and Ness County. Mr. E. A. Hoyt, who is conducting a prosperous business in general blacksmithing, repairing and wagon work, is among the enterprising men of the city, and pays a high compliment to the country and climate. Dr. W. M. Johnson, late of Michigan University, a promising young physician and an agreeable gentleman, has recently located here, and is decidedly pleased with the country. Mr. Wm. Mooney, one of the brightest young business men of the region, and a live and successful general merchant of this city, is one of the strongest advocates of Ness County that I have found within its borders.

THE REAL ESTATE AND LOAN BUSINESS.

is admirably represented at this point by Mr. Fred H. Rice, a wide awake and progressive Massachusetts man, who located here in 1878. Mr. Rice has upon his books and bullet to a good

number of fine farms, ranches, town properties and school lands for sale on liberal terms, and will be pleased to correspond with parties wishing further information of the country. He also has a good business in farm loans for eastern capitalists, and makes a specialty of investments and tax paying and collections for non residents. Mr. Rice is a bright, earnest, capable, cultivated gentleman, is himself largely interested in farm lands and stock raising, is in love with the country, and strong in his praise of its health, climate and resources. One of the prime attractions of this locality is

FARNSWORTH PARK,

the pioneer home and 1,700 acre stock farm of John E. Farnsworth, the first permanent settler in Ness County. Mr. Farnsworth came to Western Kansas in 1870 and located his homestead and made settlement on the quarter section where Bazine now stands in 1872. Farnsworth Park embraces three miles of the Walnut River, with heavy fringes and groves of native timber and a beautiful natural park, is mainly rich bottom, valley and slope lands and is improved with a dozen miles of stone post and wire fence, and the finest farm buildings in the country, among them a large handsome, well finished stone house and stone barn costing \$6,000. The barn is 100 feet square with an open court forty feet square in the centre, into which are openings from the extensive stables on all sides. This fine structure, which is built of heavy cream colored block limestone, is ingeniously divided into scores of stalls for horses, cattle and mules, all opening into the court or hollow square, and into carriage rooms, tool rooms, graneries, store rooms and hay lofts, and has in the court a never failing well, operated by a powerful wind-mill, which surmounts the metallic roof and which elevates the water into a capacious tank in the upper loft, from which it is distributed by a perfect system of pipes to all parts of the barn, the feed lots, the home, lawns and gardens. This great barn is almost faultless in plan and much the finest I have seen

horses, the brood mares being bred to a fine Clyde stallion, kept here by a company of breeders. He is a born stockman, buys, sells, and grows stock on a large scale and has made every dollar of his ample fortune in the stock business in Ness County. Mr. Farnsworth came here



M. E. CHURCH, BAZINE.

from Wisconsin without a dollar, pioneered here for years when the country was yet swarming with wild and untamed and red-handed savages; grained and survived dangers and hardships that drove hundreds of less resolute men out of the country and will find in the writer for characterizing him as a brave, fearless, frank, manly man, whose high courage, singleness and tenacity of purpose, strong native sense, far forecast, rare good judgment and splendid working ability

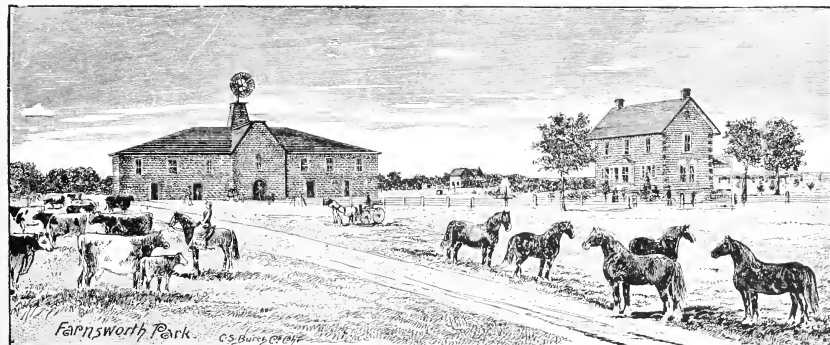
estimable wife and daughter, dispenses from a charming home, a gracious and generous hospitality. Mr. Farnsworth is largely interested in Bazine, has the agency of the Town Co. property and will be pleased to confer with parties looking for business openings or investment in this country. Two miles southeast of Bazine is the 1,200 acre

SPRING BANK

stock farm and home of Mr. Fred. H. Rice, who is already well introduced to the reader. It is a fine body of rolling prairie, watered by spring brooks, clear ponds and strong springs; has 100 acres in cultivation to feed crops and is improved with a fine stone house, frame stables, wells, wind-mill, water works and several miles of stone post and wire fence. Mr. Rice carries from 100 to 200 head of well-bred short horn cattle many of which are bred from Crane's thoroughbred Duke sires; keeps twenty to thirty horses, mostly brood mares, which are bred to Clyde sires, and has expended \$3,500 in farm improvements. He came to this farm in '78, with little more than \$500; has now personal and real property worth not less than \$15,000; is one of the enterprising, energetic, intelligent and representative men of the county whose high opinion of the country is already quoted in these columns. Three miles above Bazine is

MOONEY'S PARK,

the home and 320 acre dairy and stock farm of Seymour Mooney, a model tract of first and second bottoms, lying along the Walnut River, by which it is superbly watered. It embraces a mile and a half of the river, with twenty-five acres of fine native timber and a charming tree-embowered park, and is improved with a handsome stone residence, a model stone barn, fine stone stables, sheds and corals, a frame tool house and finely sheltered and well watered feed yards; has several miles of stone post and wire fence, fruitful gardens, model dairy rooms and cellars; has thirty-five acres in cultivation to corn, potatoes, millet and other feed crops, and like Mr. Rice's "Spring Bank," has a valuable



FARNSWORTH PARK—THE PIONEER HOME AND STOCK FARM OF J. E. FARNSWORTH, BAZINE.

in Western Kansas. The estate is further improved with outside wells and wind mills, some fine shade trees, shrubbery and a young orchard and small fruit yard, a flourishing field of alfalfa, and 100 acres in cultivation to feed crops, the balance being devoted to meadows and pasture. Mr. Farnsworth keeps 150 to 200 superior high grade cattle, which he breeds to pure short horn sires; and commonly keeps from 100 to 400

have made his Ness County life a grand success and would have given him rank in any country. He made a capital soldier record in the war for the Union, has taken a strong hand in every movement for the advancement of the country; is the leading inspiring worker for Bazine, the town of his own founding; never wearies in praise of a country that has brought him home and fortune and strong friends, and with his

stone quarry. The buildings are of finely dressed cream colored block stone, and cost \$20,000. The entire place, from the home, dairy rooms, cellar, barn, sheds, yards, and corals, to the remotest pasture, is a model of neatness and good order, and reminds one of a premium farm in the Western Reserve. Mr. and Mrs. Mooney were trained in cheese and butter dairying in New York and the Western Reserve, and settling here eight

years ago, when grain growing was considered somewhat uncertain, very natrally took to

BUTTER AND CHEESE DAIRYING,

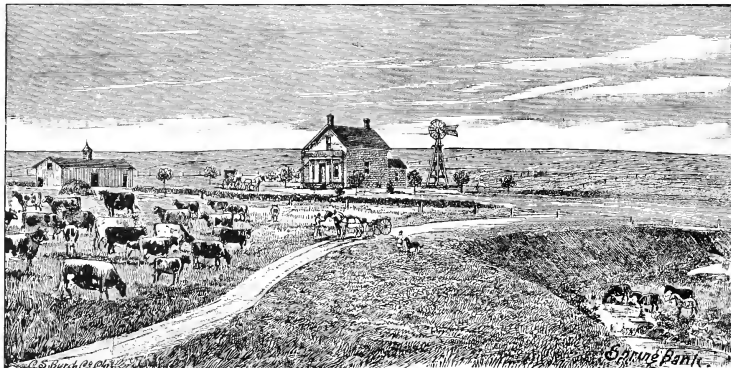
and have made it a decided success. They milk fifteen cows, and turn out from \$600 to \$800 worth of very superior butter and cheese annually, and find a quick market for the entire product in Ness City and neighboring towns, getting 25 cents per pound for the former and an average of 15 cents per pound for the latter. Mr. Mooney

New England parlor, and turns over to the worthy master of the major golden richly-flavored roll of butter and cheese fit for the table of a prince. She is moreover a refined and intelligent lady who loves flowers and plants and literature, and like her friend Mrs. Farnsworth, finds time and inclination for their cultivation. Mr. Mooney adds to his dairy work the breeding and raising of good horses and has at the Park, about twenty well-bred high-grade Norman horses, brood mares and colts, the sale of this class of stock

nee River and in the heart of the beautiful Pawnee Valley, fourteen miles south of Ness City. It was founded in May, 1886, by the Harold Town Co. of which W. D. Miner was president. The present officers are W. N. Dilley, president and J. L. Findlay, secretary. The town has

A FAULTLESS LOCATION

on a pretty plateau overlooking the river and valley, is surrounded by one of the fairest and most fertile valley regions in Kansas and like



SPRINGBANK—THE HOME AND STOCK FARM OF FRED. H. RICE, NEAR BAZINE.

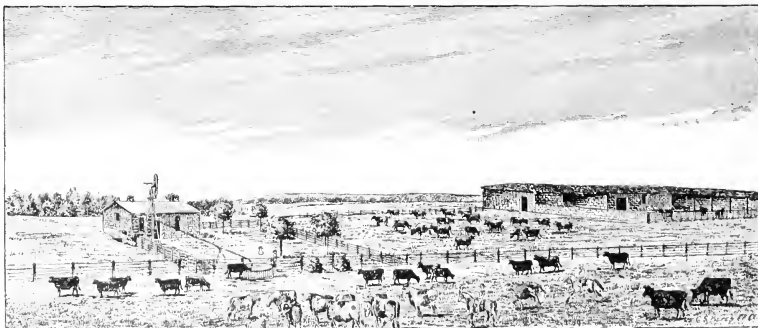
pronounces Ness County a better butter and cheese country than New York or Ohio; says he can make more butter and cheese from a given number of cows than in either country on account of the longer and more friendly season of pasturage, and also that the quality of the product is equally as fine, a statement which the consumers of his delicious butter and cheese are hardly likely to gainsay. He has made money and grown independent by the sure ways of this noble industry, and has boundless faith in a grand future for the dairyman's calling in this region. Mrs. Mooney, who is a model housewife, and seems to have been born to this especial work, personally supervises and manages every detail of the work; keeps her dairy rooms as neat as a

adding materially to his revenue. He came here with about \$1,400, has made most of these fine improvements and has an estate that much less than \$10,000 would not buy. Mr. Mooney is a steady, deliberate worker and a capital manager and farmer; has a clear head and warm heart, daily demonstrates the sublime philosophy of content on a beautiful farm and in a most inviting home from which himself and his cultivated lady dispense a refined and gracious hospitality. It is needless to add that both are delighted with Ness County. From this beautiful riverside farm and home, I want to take the reader across the country to the new town of

a pretty village located on the banks of the Paw-

nee River, has an admirable water supply, living wells being easily and cheaply obtained at a depth of twenty-five and thirty feet. Here too, as at Bazine and Ness City, there is no end of superb white and cream colored building stones and fine building sand. What was a wild prairie in the midst of Mr. W. N. Dilley's farm little more than a year ago, is now the scene of busy village life, the evidences of which are the handsome stone Town Co. building and town hall; the pretty new M. E. Church, half a dozen business buildings, a large stone livery barn, the stone post office *Record* building, the Harold House, a feed mill, several shops and a group of pretty cottage homes. Among other

NOTEWORTHY FEATURES



J. G. ARNOLD'S BROOKSIDE RANCH ON BLUFF CREEK, 10 MILES SOUTHWEST OF NESS CITY.

of the new town, is an excellent school, now held in the church building, to be provided with a school building; a well-sustained literary society, and the *Harold Record*, a capital local newspaper founded last year by a friend of McHugh and Ball and now owned and conducted by Robt

Findlay, has sailed in all seas and run into half the ports of the world, and after hunting buffalo and ranching it out here for a dozen years or more, settled down at Harold for life. He is genial and jolly and generous, and has lots of friends.

J. M. Dilley, the wide-awake general merchant,

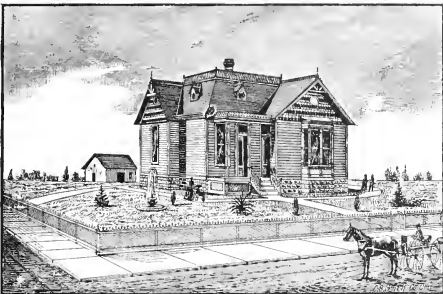
cred by the clear waters of the Pawnee River. Mr. Findlay has clean, rich, level grain fields, a neat stone cottage, stone stables and cellars and dugouts for all sorts of purposes; and great pools of water whose clear blue depths reflect pretty ash and elm groves and picturesque bluffs. Life keeps some fine well bred mares and colts, and a well fashioned Norman sire and a bunch of nice cows; runs a neat little dairy and lives almost pleasant life with an interesting family and never forgets to say a good word for the country.

THE DILLEY FARM

too, of which mention has already been made, is as fine a 480-acre tract as a crow ever flew over. It lies all around the town and is improved with fine stone buildings and stocked with choice horses and good cattle. Mr. W. N. Dilley believes in good horses and likes this valley better than his native Illinois. Harold has a future and a bright one, but I must say my good bye and run down to

RIVERSIDE,

a nice little hamlet just eight miles east of Harold and fifteen miles south of Ness City. Riverside has a delightful location too, and from its smooth elevated plateau, looks out upon one of the loveliest valley views in the country. The clear, swift waters of the Pawnee flow hard by the town and the water supply is exceptionally fine. Building stones and sand are abundant and equal in quality to any in the country. The tributary farm country is fair and fertile as an oriental garden, and the neighboring farmers raised the best corn crops in the county this year. They always raise good crops here. Many of the farmers are Germans and they handle their lands like men who loved and revered the noble calling of Cincinnati. They are men of all work and no play and are growing rich in lands, nice crop stone houses, barns and sheds and thrifty orchards, groves and live stock. Riverside has a neat little hotel kept in capital shape by Mrs. H. C. Williamson, an intelligent and estimable Massachusetts lady, who likes the country because it has renewed her health. The pioneer merchant, Mr. J. B. Whitley, began general trade here in 1855, two years before the town was laid out, and has built up a large and prosperous business. He came from Brooklyn, N. Y., is a bright business man and a close observer, and believes in a fine outcome for the country. Mr. J. C. Lohnes, the live, rustling land and loan agent of Riverside, and a native of Germany, has lived here since 1874 and believes there is no better or more



C. L. ROGERS' COTTAGE, NESS CITY.

Findlay Sr., an old settler here and a capable and obliging gentleman. The

NEEDS OF THE TOWN

are a good hardware store, a skilled blacksmith, a practical tinner, a harness and saddlery shop and

A RAILWAY.

That a railway is sure to come up this broad and fertile valley at an early day, is patent to every one familiar with the country and railway movements in Western Kansas. The D. M. & A. (Mo. Pacific) is leading out in all good directions. The Santa Fe hold the valley of the Buckner and Walnut on either side and would like to hold the Pawnee. The Rock Island is fast covering all the good territory not already occupied; the B. & M. of Nebraska want to come this way and will soon try one of these rich valleys. The "Frisco" is rapidly pushing west and wants the best line possible. The Fort Smith road is looking in the same direction and Harold will get one or two of these lines and then

SHE WILL BOOM;

she can't well help it. The country is too large and rich, and the people already here are not asleep. Harold is made up of first-rate people—kind, moral, sociable, hospitable, law-abiding and intelligent people, good enough and bright enough for any country. I confess to a corial liking for them, and in this am not at all singular. Mr. W. N. Dilley, the president of the Town Co., and the owner of a pretty home and model farm hard by the town site, is a No. 1 man, good enough for any city. He owns 480 acres of fine farm land, pays his debts, keeps the village post-office, works like a Trojan for the town, sells lots surprisingly cheap, has a genial social nature and a level head, and belongs to the company of christian gentlemen. Mr. Dilley likes the country, and comes from the good old State of Illinois.

His partner in the real estate and loan business, Mr. J. L. Findlay, the genial secretary of the Town Co., is one of the bright, square and manly men of the county, belongs to "oldest settlers," and is the city Justice.

Mr. A. P. Connor, the owner of the stone livery and feed and relay stables, came here from McPherson County half a dozen years ago, is delighted with the country, and is one of the manliest men in the kingdom.

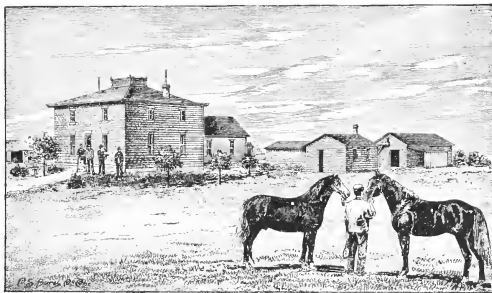
Mr. Gross Longendyke, who runs the general store and feed mill, and is cutting hundreds of stone posts into elegant staves for embellishing the grounds of residents in the neighboring

who has been in trade here since the town started, and is another prime business man and citizen, likes this country better than his native Keosauke State. Mr. Dilley has lately moved into his fine new store, and commands the situation.

Perry McNeely, an intelligent and genial New Yorker, who came here several years ago from the Western Reserve, owns the Harold House and runs it in a right pleasant and hospitable way. He is full of kindly humor and joins a pleasant family in high compliments for the country.

Whoever wants to buy a choice farm or stock ranch in this charming valley, or buy a city lot or go into business, or get a loan on his farm, or find out all about the country, will "hit the mark" by calling on Dilley & Findlay, a couple of square and trustworthy real estate agents, if there are any in the Sunflower State.

A comfortable daily stage passes Harold for Ness City and Jetmore, but that is unimportant,



HOME OF W. N. DILLEY, HAROLD.

for they will have a real, full-fledged, live railway soon enough, and then everybody can take a Pullman sleeper at Kansas City and wake up at Harold next day and bless their eyes with the sight of a beautiful country. One of the local attractions is J. L. Findlay's 160 acre

a splendid body of second bottoms superbly wat

promising region in Kansas.

THE NEW TOWN

was platted in the spring of 1887 and has now Mr. Whitley's general store, Mr. J. C. Lohnes' real estate and loan office, Mrs. H. C. Williamson's Riverside hotel, two or three shops, a large and well built school house, an excellent public school and some neat cottages. Mr. Lohnes, who

is agent for the Town Co. is selling building lots all the way from \$25 to \$150 and offers special and very liberal inducements to actual settlers and builders. There are

GOOD OPENINGS

for nearly every line of business and mechanics here and the tributary country, especially on the north, east and south, is large and productive enough to take care of a good-sized town. They will build a church and several other structures here the coming summer and have strong hopes of one or more railroads in the near future. Like the Pawnee Valley towns, the railway prospects are remarkably good. The town is surrounded with

A THRIFTY FARM COMMUNITY

part Germania and part Americans, but all men of exceptional industry, whose neat stone buildings, nice young orchards and groves, well cultivated grain fields and pro-prous herds, are an earnest of a most promising future for all this region. Mr. A. W. Miller, an intelligent New Yorker, who came here in 1887, has a royal valley farm near the village, his stone cottage, nice out-buildings, wind mill, wells, water works, gardens, orchard and a grove and well fed stock, reminding one of a model New York country home. It is a riverside farm as nice and clean as a garden. Mr. A. Shalemant, a money-making Germ in, has \$80 acres of fine slope and valley land near town, with extensive stone sheds and corrals, a beautiful ten acre grove, 160 acres in corn and other feed crops, and 100 head of cattle and horses. Chas. Roth, who is also a thrifty German and came here in an early day, has 320 acres lying against the town site and his neat stone buildings, fine groves, young orchard, hedges, eleg in garden and fine grain fields, would attract attention in any country. It is a model valley farm. Mr. Fred. Roth, his son, also owns a beautiful valley farm, hard by the town, and handles his herds in the fields and to the place like a thrifty and progressive man who believes in a future for this country. Mr. A. Reinert has a 321 acre place, adjoining the village on the west, with a remarkably fine group of stone buildings and groves, orchard, grain fields and live stock that would honor any county in Kansas. All of these gentlemen are greatly pleased with the country; all are old settlers here; all model farmers and prime progressive citizens. Mr. J. C. Lohnes, the tireless and enterprising land agent already named, has too, a handsome farm on the high prairie overlooking the village, and it has improved it with a neat stone cottage, tables and wells, and will plant a grove and orchard the coming spring. Every man named in this connection has made his means on the spot; all came here poor, and all are steadily growing in home comforts and independence. Mr. Lohnes, or the veteran merchant Mr. W. Wiley, who is village postmaster, both obliging and thoroughly reliable gentlemen, will gladly answer further inquiry about Riverside and this delightful valley country.

If the reader will join me in a run by rail from Ness City westward sixteen miles to

BEELERVILLE,

we will take a familiar look at men and things in that live young town, say our bye-bye to the dense public, and close our Ness County Hand-Book. Beleville is a thriving town, founded in 1887, by the Arkansas Valley Town Co., and is jointly owned by that great corporation and by Messrs. E. E. Beeler, J. F. Beeler and Geo. S. Redd. It has a fine location on the banks of the Walnut River, and a commanding plateau overlooking the Walnut Valley. It is midway between Ness City and Dighton, has a large and productive tributary country, and is sure to grow into a great town. It has already won a remarkable growth for a single season, and has now such substantial proofs of town life

as a pretty railway passenger and freight depot, the large and exceptionally fine stone Beeler House, with its abundant hotel accommodations and stores, a full dozen new business houses, lively barns, mechanic shops, homes, &c., &c., and 150 live awake people. It is a town of the last May, and all there is of the town has come into being since that time. They have fine building stone, good spring water in abundance, good building sand, a corned-bean, a village and a company of live business men, and will soon have a church and schoolhouse. Ample preparation is being made for a busy building season next year. Among the substantial

BUSINESS MEN

of Beleville are Mr. J. F. Beeler, the agent of the Town Co. and a prosperous and enterprising general merchant, who is driving a good trade and offers the speculative, building and business public business lots for \$125 to \$150, and residence lots at \$40 to \$75. Mr. Beeler hails from Doniphan County, Kansas, and is a careful and shrewd merchant. Mr. H. D. Sturtevant, the successful hardware merchant, comes from the Hawk-eye country, and is a strong man here. Mr. D. Rinely, a leading and successful grocery merchant, is also an Iowa man of character and good business qualities. O. P. Rinely, another enterprising representative of the Hawk-eye kingdom, is doing a good business in flour, feed and grain. Bird G. Lee, an intelligent and level-headed Doniphan County man, runs the village market, and is the fortunate owner of a neighboring farm. Jas. H. Johnson, the owner of a "Brookbank Stock Farm," and already introduced to the reader as a substantial and enterprising stockman, is a partner of Mr. Lee in the market business. Elmer E. Beeler, one of the founders of the town, and a bright, generous and public-spirited young business man, handles the entire coal trade of the town, is an active dealer in real estate and farm lands, and is the owner of a neighboring farm. He will be pleased to give further information concerning the city and country. John Bri k, late of Topeka, gives the new city one of the features of a metropolis, by his well-conducted tonsorial parlors. J. L. Nicholson, an enterprising young Hawkeye, is driving a good business in the live stock and flour trade. Samuel Lofand, "the village blacksmith," and a No. 1 mechanic, is an honorable representative of Illinois. Elmer Goreham, one of the leading general merchants and the owner of a good farm, hails from Iowa, and worthily represents that noble commonwealth. Aug. Brocher is recently built and stocked a nice drug house, and represents the genial side of life in old Missouri. Dr. Hathaway, the good-natured "medicine man" of the town, is a late acquisition from the East. Mr. B. Beeler, the builder and owner of the elegant new Beeler House, the builder and manager of the pioneer school Beeler House, and an old settler and stockman in this neighborhood, hails from Doniphan County, and is one of the squarest men that ever turned a furrow in the Kansas Valley. All the men named are cordial, earnest workers for the town. Most of them own neighboring farms, are well acquainted with the country, and speak in the most confident terms of its future. There are good openings here for a bank and newspaper, and indeed almost every line of business. It is plain to see that Beleville has a bright future and that its growth is likely to be rapid and substantial.

NONCHALANTIA,

in the southwest corner of the county, represents a splendid valley country, and although not a railway town is soon likely to be, and is already a good sized town with a bright newspaper, a dozen business houses, and other signs of prosperity.

Along the D & M & A Railway, in the northern part of the county, are

GOGGENBURG, UTICA AND BROWNSVILLE,

all flourishing villages, and all envied with a royal tributary country, and rapidly growing in population and commerce.

While Ness County is a grand and beautiful country, eminently worthy of every good word bestowed by the writer and citizens named in these pages, like every new country it has its

DRAWBACKS,

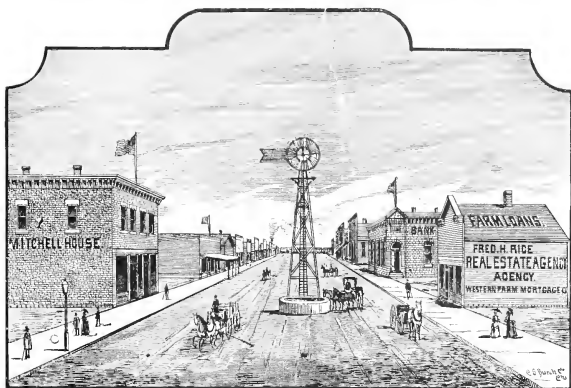
and the candid journalist will not hesitate to make a note of them. The country teems with loose and superficial and wasteful farming, and it is a compliment to its rich soils and friendly climate that men can live here on the proceeds of such haphazard. They have "hot winds" and "hot winds," and occasional crop failures here, but they are no more a match for the devastating drought and scorching heat, and withered crops of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other Eastern States, this year, than old Mother Partington's broom was a match for the sea. The appalling waste of farm machinery in this country, by exposure to the sunshine and storms, with scarcely an effort at housing or shelter, would bankrupt the farmers of a less favored country in two years. The exposure of the herds and flocks to the occasionally severe storms of winter, without an effort to provide shelter, and the country where the elements of cheap and perfect protection abound on every ranch and range, is a withering burlesque on the Christianity, humanity and economic views and habits of the herd-man. The waste of the valuable burn yard and feed lot manures, whose rich accumulations are generally dumped into the nearest wash-out or ravine, is a strange commentary on the agricultural life of the country. There is now and then a blizzard sweeping down from Manitoba, that defies successful competition; but it is quickly over, and leaves the people all the higher appreciation for one of the finest climates in America. There are two very big drawbacks to the country, however, for the good of the country, but immigration and higher and values, and better farming, will soon enough break these large estates into smaller farms. The people are too speculative, the average farmer and householder preferring "dicker" in town lots, ponies, claims, odd trumpery, and anything that has commercial value, to steady work on the farm or in the orchard and garden, but time and immigration will remedy this weakness, as they do most of the drawbacks of all new countries. In spite of all these and many another drawback, the worst of which is the large number of nomadic, changeable people who are never quite satisfied with any country; in spite of every thing, Ness County is steadily and surely marching on to a splendid destiny, and I cannot better close these notes of one of the finest countries in the Southwest than by quoting from my late Hand-Book of an older country, the words most fitting to this new and even more promising country. Ness County has

"A SPLENDID FUTURE."

Farming is done with half the labor required in the older States. The climate is delightful, the soils are inexhaustible, the grasses are unrivaled, and the waters are pure. Ness County is no dreary waste from which men may turn with a sense of loneliness and desolation, for its plateaus are as fair as the plains of

LOMBARDY,

its valleys lovely as the fabled Eden, and the sunlight falls upon its matchless landscape as softly as on the limpid waters of the Nile. For the idealist, the lover of beauty, and the stern moralist, rich fields of conquest. It is a great destiny to live in a land where Apollo might tend his flocks and Sappho turn dairy-maid, singing her sweetest songs to the strains of a stringed instrument, and a land where the practical and ideal go hand in hand to make the perfect life."

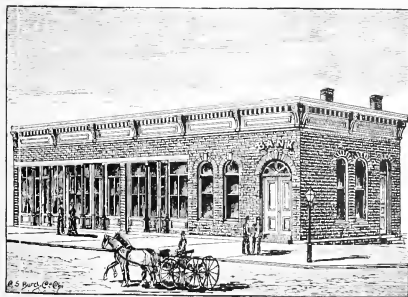


MAIN STREET, BAZINE--LOOKING NORTH.

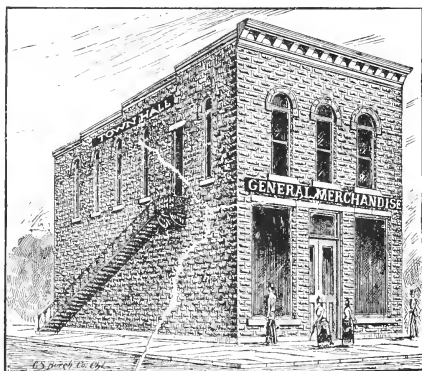


PRIZE BANNER,

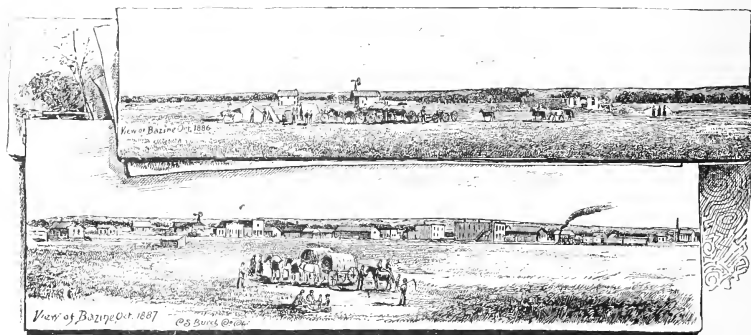
Awarded Ness County for the best display of County Products at the Southwest Kansas Exposition, 1886.



THE BANK OF BAZINE, AT BAZINE.



PUBLIC HALL AND TOWN CO. BUILDING, HAROLD.



VIEWS OF BAZINE—1886 AND 1887.

	6	7	18	19	30	31	42	43	54	55	
	CEDAR STREET										
	Public School	8	17	20	29	32	41	44	53	56	
	LOCUST STREET										
	4	5th	9	16	21	28	33	40	4th	46	12th
			6th	7th	8th	9th	10	11th		13th	14th
	CHESTNUT STREET										
	3	10	15	22	27	34	39	46	51	58	
	MAIN STREET										
	2	11	14	20	26	35	38	47	50	59	
	SYCAMORE STREET										
	1	12	13	19	25	36	37	44	49	60	

C. N. & W. R. R.

Kinney & Wood's Kenwood Addition to Ness City